

INDEPENDENT

Massacre in sanctuary



killing: The bodies of Muslim refugees slaughtered in the Israeli shelling of the UN Fijian battalion headquarters at Qana that left more than 70 dead

Clinton calls for ceasefire after refugee bloodbath

The Mindle East resterday equenerate its: a mortier her four day old daughter, and her blackest day since the faunch of the Arabi shorther dilidied. President Climon called last Israeli peace process, importante to auruse metic for a passente anno a chorus of out the region into a sickerung new crois of no rage from around the world. Israel described lence.

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Habbollah moket pattery in Lepanna deliting.

In Camp earlier in thereby, Muslim militants ated a UN base which trad becomes a sand meeting enneed rouns outside a hotel close may for civilian retinges. Ming of least, 30 to the promise, killing 15 people, mostly Greek people, which retinges a lattice wormen and "follow-makes, killing 15 people, mostly Greek people what you the inchresiver wormen and "follow-makes, killing 15 people, mostly Greek people what you the inchresiver wormen and "follow-makes, killing 15 people, mostly Greek people in the day, israelt warmanes work trained. The attack may have been aimed at Israeli Earlier in the day, israelt warmanes work trained. In, revenue, for the assault on election apparature training in the image of tenanon.

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Robert Fisk Foreign Reporter of the Year

Qana, southern Lebanon - It was a massacre. Not since Sabra and Chatila had I seen the innocent slaughtered like this. The Lebanese refugee women and children and men lay in heaps,

their hands or arms or legs miss-soldier stood amid a sea of boding, beheaded or disembowies and, without saying a word, elled. There were well over a held aloft the body of a headhundred of them. A baby lay without a head. The Israeli shells had scythed through them as they lay in the United Nations shelter, believing that they were safe under the world's protection. Like the Muslims of Srebrenica, the Muslims of Qana

In front of a burning building of the UN's Fijian battalion headquarters, a girl held a corpse in her arms, the body of a grey-haired man whose eyes were staring at her, and she rocked the corpse back and forth in her arms, keening and weeping and crying the same words over and over: "My fa-ther, my father." A Fijian UN

were wrong.

"The Israelis have just told us they'll stop shelling the area," a UN soldier said, shaking with anger. "Are we supposed to thank them?" In the remains of a burning building - the con-ference room of the Fijian UN headquarters—a pile of corpses was burning. The roof had crashed in flames onto their bodies, cremating them in front of my eyes. When I walked to-wards them, I slipped on a human hand.

So why did the Israelis kill all these refugee civilians - more than 70 at the latest count - and go on sending 25 shells into the survivors and the bodies around

them for up to 10 minutes after the first round had landed? A Fijian soldier, looking at a dead woman lying at his feet, her neck encircled with blood. said simply: "The guerrillas fired six Katyushas from near our position. The shells came in two minutes later. But the Israelis know we're here. This has been a UN battalion headquarters for 18 years. They knew we had 600 refugees

Indeed they did. The Israelis know that 5,200 penniless civilians - too poor to flee to Beirut - are crowded into the compounds of the 4,500-strong UN orce. The Fijian battalion headquarters is clearly marked on Israel's military maps. The UN buildings were plastered with white and black UN signs. They are lit up at night. Not a soul in southern Lebanon is ignorant of their location. Nor is the Hizboilah. It is not the first time the guerrillas have fired their missiles at Israel from beside a UN building, when a Fijian officer tried to prevent the Hizbollah from firing rockets close to his position on the coast road two days ago, a Hizbollah man shot him in the

But does a Hizbollah target of opportunity justify the night-

civilian cars on the river bridge north of Sidon. us yesterday? Are Lebanese civilians worth so little on the Every foreign army comes to immoral scales of war that grief in Lebanon. The Sabra and armies can write them off as Chatila massacre of Palestinians "collateral damage" while folby Israel's militia allies in 1982 lowing the hopeless goal of doomed Israel's 1982 invasion.

eradicating "terrorism" by gun-fire and blood? True, the Now the Israelis are stained again by the bloodbath at Qana, Hizbollah should bear a burden the scruffy little Lebanese hill of guilt, though they will refuse town where the Lebanese beto do so. lieve Jesus turned water into But Israel's slaughter of civilians in this terrible 10-day of-The Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres may now wish to end this war. But the Hizbollah fensive - 206 by last night (- has been so cavalier, so ferocious, that not a Lebanese will forgive this massacre. There had been

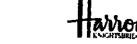
are not likely to let him. Israel is back in the Lebanese quagmire. Nor will the Arab world the ambulance attacked on Saturday, the sisters killed in forget yesterday'a terrible Yohmor the day before, the 2year-old girl decapitated by an The blood of all the refugees Israeli missile four days ago. ran quite literally in streams And earlier yesterday, the Isfrom the shell-smashed UN raelis had slaughtered a family compound restaurant in which of 12 - the youngest was a fourthe Shiite Muslims from the hill day-old baby - when Israeli helicopter pilots fired missiles villages of southern Lebanon who had heeded Israel's order into their home. to leave their homes - had pa-Shortly afterwards, three Isthetically sought shelter. Fijian raeli jets dropped bombs only and French soldiers heaved an-250 metres from a UN convoy other group of dead - they lay

on which I was travelling, blastwith their arms tightly wrapped ing a house 30 feet into the air around each other - into xin front of my eyes. Travelling blankets. back to Beirut to file my report on the Qana massacre to the Independent last night, I found two Israeli gunboats firing at the

A French UN trooper muttered oaths to himself as he opened a bag in which he was TURN TO PAGE 2

Failure for Botham lan Botham failed in his attempt to become an England Test cricket selector, the votes for the two vacancies at Lord's going to David Graveney and Graham Gooch. Ray Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, has al-

ready said he did not want



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Clarke stands firm Low IQ for dummies The Chancellor, Kenneth Babies pacified with dummies Clarke, forcefully held the line grow up to have lower than avagainst strident calls from the erage IQs, a new study has Tory right for a giveaway Bud-get in a move which overshadfound. Researchers accidentally stumbled on the link, never demonstrated before, during a study intended to establish

Launch 'goes ahead' Britain's first business-only Sunday newspaper insisted its launch this weekend will go ahead despite the loss of its major potential backer. Senior executives of Sunday Business spent yesterday frantically seekwhether breast feeding has an ing fresh financial backing for

the venture. Page 20 | Gravency.

Today's weather Damp in the south but fine elsewhere. Section Two, page 21



latest London bomb, the fifth since the end of the IRA ceasefire, was a warning shot by the terrorists. John Major said the bomb, detonated on Wednesday night in the garden of an empty house, would not derail the peace process:

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IRA's warning shot Security sources believe the

owed attempts by John Major to pacify his 1995 leadership challenger John Redwood. effect on IQ. BUSINESS 20-24 COMMENT 18.79 CROSSWORD 28 GAZETTE 16

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UN accuses Israel of targeting its troops

DAVID USBORNE in New York

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, condemned the shelling by Israel of a UN peace-keeping unit in southern Lebanon, as senior officials indicated that they believed the attack had been deliberate.

The Israeli strike, which flattened the headquarters of a Fijian peacekeeping battalion in southern Lebanon, triggered a diplomatic furore at UN headquarters in New York as Arab governments demanded action by the Security Council to bring an end to Israel's military ac-



Boutros-Ghali: 'Horrified and shocked' at shelling

secretariat said that the Mr Boutros-Ghali had learned of the attack with "shock and horror" and that he "deplores and condemns this shelling in the strongest possible terms.

On the critical issue of whether Israeli forces had targeted the facility, a top adviser to the Secretary-General. replied: "Yes. The Israeli depositions of every UN unit that is deployed (in the region)."

UN officials simultaneously confirmed reports that Hizbollah guerrillas had launched Katyusha rockets and mortars at Israel from a placement roughly 30t) metres from the UN facility, which was crowded with more than 5,000 refugees seeking shelter.

The Fijian unit is part of the Unifil force that has been deployed in southern Lebanon

bers 4,568 soldiers. Nine different countries make up the force, which is under the command of Major-General Stanislaw Wozniak, of Poland.

Information about the guerrilla activity near the site bare-ly mitigated the UN's anger. however. Sylvana Foa, a UN spokeswoman, pointedly noted that the "Israelis have been given precise locations of all Unifil positions and given precise positions of all humanitarian convoys in the area". She added that the installation used by the Finans had been in the same spot for "vears and vears"

It also emerged that Maj-Gen Wozniak had objected repeatedly to the Israeli command over recent days about the threat that its military activities posed to the Fijian headquarters and the civilians sheltering inside it. The senior military adviser to Mr Boutros-Ghali, Frank Van Kappen of the Netherlands, was meanwhile dispatched to the area to try to ensure that the incident is not repeated elsewhere.

Leading the calls for Securily Council action was the Lebanese ambassador to the UN, Samir Moubarak. He accused Israel of flouting the UN charter and specifically Security Council Resolution 425 of March 1978, which called for the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from his country and led to the establishment of Unifil.

"It is high time for the Israelis to understand that they have to comply fully with international law." he declared in New York. "They have to comply with the resolution (425) and withdraw immediately from our country. The cycle of violence taking place is a direct consequence of

he occupation of Lebanon." However, efforts by the Security Council to agree a French-drafted resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire apparently faced not unexpected opposition from America. Many diplomats considered it likely that some resolution would emerge last night. However, the US was believed to be wary of any text that appeared to condemn Israel, including one that called for a



Top envoy sent to secure peace

RUPERT CORNWELL

The US yesterday dispatched the State Department's top Middle East specialist to the region in a new bid to secure an end to the fighting which led to the vesterday's horrific carnage at the United Nations refugee camp in southern Lebanon.

According to officials here, Dennis Ross, the special Middle East policy co-ordinator, will try to forge a deal acceptable to both Israel and Lebanon (and by implication Syria, de facto protector and arms supplier of succeeds, Secretary of State efforts may unravel.

Warren Christopher, who constructed a similar ceasefire between Israel and Hizbollah in 1993, could himself travel to the region before attending a US-Russian summit in Moscow.

The Israeli attack could not have come at a worse time for Washington. Not only does it threaten to change the dynamic of the faltering overall peace process; it took place as President Clinton was en route from Japan to Russia, where the incident could dominate a visit designed to boost the election chances of PTes

Now, however, Washington the Hizbollah guerrillas). If he fears that its Middle East peace

The slaughter is shaping up as an international public relations disaster for Israel. It also demonstrates the lack of US control over its protégé. Washington had been seeking to end the fighting and even the New York Times, a staunch supporter of Israel, argued it should halt its Operation Grapes of Wrath before playing irretrievably into

Hizbollah's hands. That, analysts here say, is precisely what will happen now, reargument that Israel is waging French initiatives are now jointrillas but a general war against

ordinary civilians, and strengthening calls for the Jewish state out of southern Lebanon, in reto withdraw from its "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Sympathy for Hizbollah will only grow, intensifying international pressure on Israel to make concessions in any ceasefire deal. That however is less likely than ever the run-up to next month's Israeli elections, in which the Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres is out to show he is as tough on terror-

ism as anyone. Terms for a truce, for which earlier separate American and ly have to involve some future bombings in Israel.

commitment by Israel to pull turn for an end to bombardment by Hizbollah units of northern Israel "Israel has to comply with resolution 425," Samir Moubarak, Lebanon's UN Am-

hassador said vesterday, referring to the 1978 UN call for FROM PAGE 1 Israel to end its occupation. But as US diplomats know,

the involvement of Syria, which has 35,090 troops in Lebanon, is crucial. Indirectly therefore, a resolution of the current crisis could bring closer the resumption of the separate Israeli -Syrian peace talks, suspe

Israelis show no mercy to ∠ebanese

dropping feet, fingers, pieces of people's arms.

And as we walked through this obscenity, a swarm of peo-ple burst into the compound. They had driven in wild convoys down from Tyre and began to pull the blankets off the mutinot a limited war against guer- ly working, will almost certain- after the spate of Arab suicide and sons and daughters and is Great") and to threaten the UN troops.

We had suddenly become not UN troops and journalists but Westerners, Israel's allies. an object of hatred and venom. One bearded man with fierce eyes stared at us, his face dark with fury. "You are Americans." he screamed at us. "Americans are dogs. You did

this. Americans are dogs." President Bill Clinton has allied himself with Israel in its war against "terrorism" and the Lebanese, in their grief, had not forgotten this. Israel's official expression of sorrow was rubbing salt in their wounds. "I would like to be made into a bomb and blow myself up amid the Is-

raelis," one old man said. As for the Hizbollah, which has repeatedly promised that Is-raelis will pay for their killing of Lebanese civilians, its revenge cannot be long in coming. Operation Grapes of Wrath may then turn out then to be all too aptly named.

A rescuer carries the body of a child from a shelled apartment building in Nabatiyeh. The youngest victim was just four days old Photograph: Mohamed Zatari

URGENT APPEAL

Within minutes of the shelling of the U.N. base near Tyre in Southern Lebanon, the Red Cross was on the spot providing vital medical aid to the injured.

The Red Cross is currently the only international aid agency providing assistance throughout Southern Lebanon. We are distributing supplies to medical centres and clinics. We are giving mattresses, blankets and vital food aid to people who have left everything behind. And we are deploying 32 ambulances and 25 mobile Red Cross clinics to the areas of greatest need.

Now we need your help to ensure aid continues to reach those who need it desperately. Please give as much as you can today. Your donation can save lives. Thank you.

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Political Correspondent

Major refuses

to lay blame

for killings

cuss the Israeli shelling of the UN peacekeepers' base in Lebanon, the Prime Minister said as he set off from the Ukraine to Moscow yesterday. John Major said he wanted to discuss "this dreadful loss of innocent life" with other heads of state at the meeting of the G7 world economic powers. backbench critics of Israel, in-

"What we have to look at now is how we can prevent a recurrence," he said, adding that he had been in touch with French President Chirac, US President Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Perez and Lebanese Prime Minister Harare. He said he thought a solution

was "possible and I don't think we are a long way away from such an agreement". He refused to take sides in the argument about responsi-bility for the start of the crisis

in south Lebanon. Everyone can look back at the Hizbollah attacks in Israel and the Israeli attacks in the Lebanon. That is non-productive. What is productive is to make sure it doesn't happen

again," he said. in the Commons, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, also trod a careful line supporting the Israeli government without endorsing its at-

World leaders will today dis-tempts to punish Hizbollah guerillas in south Lebanon. He

told MPs that, looking at the is-sues involved in "the attacks that Hizbollah have been making on Israel ... it is quite apparent that one is facing a near-intractable problem of the deepest concern to the international communi-He was pressed by Labour

cluding George Galloway (Glasgow Hillhead), who condemned the Israeli attack as a reckless orgy of violence". Mr Heseltine said he had personally seen Fijian troops who sustained many of yester-day's casualties - serving for the UN. "They are an immensely

impressive force and they do a wholly desirable task on behalf of the wider world," he said. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said he was "grave-

ly concerned" at the shelling. At Westminster, MPs divided along pro-and anti-Israel lines. Emma Nicholson, the former Tory MP who crossed to the Liberal Democrats, said the attack was "utterly unbe-lievable". She said: "The Is-raelis must stop. They are losing sympathy fast, but much more importantly they are harming and hurting countless civilians

Attack 'endangers' peace

PHIL REEVES

As the world watched in horror at the devastation inflicted by the Israelis on a UN peace-keeping camp, Russia launched into a diplomatic row with Israel last night accusing it of "seriously en-dangering" the Middle East peace process by mounting at-tacks on southern Lebanon.

The escalating hostilities between the two were "totally unacceptable", said a spokesman for the Russian foreign ministry. Mikhail Demurin, after learning that some 60 people had safety in Moscow, where the lat-

been killed by an Israeli shell. "It is a path to nowhere. It seriously endangers the peace process," he said. He called on the Israelis to demonstrate restraint, although he also condemned "terrorist" attacks mounted against Israel.

The ministry's comments echoed remarks made by Yevge-ny Primakov, President Boris Yellsin's recently appointed Foreign Minister. Speaking on the eve of the opening of a Group of Seven summit on nuclear

est crisis is certain to be discussed, at the very least behindthe-scenes, Mr Primakov said that Israel's bombing of Lebanon, a "sovereign country", was "not appropriate".

Although Russia has itself been daily bombing Chechen villages, he condemned the Israeli assaults, adding that Russia opposed "all forms of terrorism" Moscow was willing to help find a solution to the Israel-Lebanon conflict, he said. A meeting of the UN Security Council will be called soon, at the request of Arab nations, to discuss the lat-

Charity appeals

The following chamies are appealing for donations to help Lebanese civilians:

British Red Cross Freepost ondon SWIX 7BR Tel: 0171-245-1000

Help Chanty Association PO Box 3894, London NW1 6PT Tel: 0171-724-7939

151B Park Road London NW8.7HT Tel: 0171 722 0039

MARY DEJEVSKY

The scale of the casualties caused by Israel's raids on southern Lebanon yesterday left France in an awkward position, straddled between its earlier championing of Lebanon's cause and the more sympathetic consideration of Israel's position towards which it appeared to be moving. Just

FRANCE

point of combining its own unilateral peace effort with the US initiative and perhaps winning some of the credit for an eventual ceasefire, that ceasefire seemed further away than ever.

This was an unfortunate turn of events for France, which has seemed to be at least one move behind events ever since President Chirac initiated France's when France seemed on the direct involvement by hosting ster, Herve de Charette, ex- Lebanon to avoid all action

Paris on Sunday. Since then, yesterday, arriving in Tel Aviv France has had to watch as the Americans arrived with their own peace plan, the Lebanese prime minister travelled to London and the Israelis continued raids which made President Chirac's 'Long live independent Lebanon' call dur-

sound hollow. The French Foreign Min-

ing his recent visit to Beirut

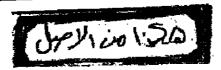
the Lebanese prime minister in tended his Middle East shuttling against Israel from Lebanese to meet Israeli and American negotiators in an attempt to coordinate the two draft peace plans. Tomorrow he sets off for a second visit to Syria, where he could meet the special Iranian

The latest version of the plan he is carrying is said to call on Israel to refrain from all action against Lebanese civilians, on

soil, and on Hizbollah not to use offensive weapons against Israel - all to be monitored by third countries, including France and the US pending a longer-term solution. These details, however, were released before Mr de Charette met the American negotiators, and there was no indication of how it survived the meeting.

By yesterday it was already

unilateral approach had been considerably diluted. Official statements spoke of "coordination" with European partners, Mr de Charette had been authorised to discuss the French plan with Americans in Tele Aviv, and there was a small rash of articles in the French media, including the pro-Chirac Le Figuro, recognising abriost for the first time the existence both of an Israeli point of view and clear that France's initially of an American peace plan



MASSACRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

sorry for the harm done to civilians's



Israeli déjà vu on killing fields

PATRICK COCKBURN

It was inevitable and it has happened before. The slaughter of some 90 Lebanese civilians at Qana by Israeli artillery has torpedoed operation Satra and Chatila doomed the claims of pinpoint accuracy. 1982 to political and military failure. A campaign intended to isolate Hizbollah, the Lebanese guerrilla movement, is uniting

the Lebanese against Israel. Ehud Barak, the Israeli foreign minister, said yesterday that the massacre at Cana was "a very grave error", and said: "I

am sure that along with every- the Fijian battalion headquarone else we are very sorry about any harm done to civilians." Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said that Israel fired in response to the launching of a Katyusha from close to the UN post where refugees were sheltering, but this will be difmassacre of 600 Palestinians at ficult to square with previous

> Heav ies were aiways likely and it was only a matter of time before it led to the mass death of civilians. UN officers say that Israeli heavy guns have been firing over 3,000 shells a day. The Israeli airforce confirms that it has launched

over 1,000 airstrikes. The day before the killings at

ters at Qana and at Nabatiyeh further east I was standing on the roof of the Israeli forward military headquarters at Marjayoun. It is an old yellow-painted building on a hill three miles inside Lebanon from which you can see Israeli gun positions and their targets.

Colonel Amal Assad, a senior Israeli commander. across a broad valley to the tops of houses of Nabatiyeh just visible over the ridge line, and said, in a qualification which seemed ominous at the time, there was "almost nobody left" in the town. "If there are any houses destroyed they are terrorist houses," he added. "We haven't damaged any civilian targets. Even before the civilian houses." The impression was that any house hit by a shell or a missile - as was one house vesterday, killing nine people would be designated retro-spectively as the home of a ter-

In the eight days since operassault is far more accurate than during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982-84 or in Operation Accountability in 1993.

Every precaution was being taken against hitting civilians. New "smart" guided munitions are used. Electronic and human intelligence identifies Hizbollah

deaths yesterday, all this was wearing a little thin because, if Israeli artillery and airstrikes were this accurate, why had they failed to stop Hizboliah firing Katyusha rockets into Israel?

In fact, the Grapes of Wrath has repeated most of the Israeli ation Grapes of Wrath started, mistakes of 1982-84, among Israeli military spokesmen have them a "massive, indiscriminate downpour of bombs and shells and carelessness about the fate of Lebanese civilians.

In launching the operation Mr Peres wanted a cheap victory six weeks before the Israeli election on 29 May. But he has created enemies with which Israel will have to deal for years

Desperate voices go unheard as shells rain down

We heard the shells that killed them. From the ridge above the road to the coast, perhaps four miles south of Qana, the Israeli 155-millimetre guns were firing over our heads as we drove in a UN convoy from Tibnin to Tyre. It was just after 2pm.
All day the Israelis had been firing into southern Lebanon.

On a humanitarian convoy led by Commandant Eamon Smyth, an Irish UN officer from Dublin, I was travelling down the coast road a little after breakfast when three Israeli jets swept out of the sky and dropped three bombs 250 metres to our right, spraying the UN vehicles with debris and bouncing our vehicles on the road. When the third jet dived, the crack of the explosion was followed by the sight of an entire house - walls, roof, chimneys - climbing 30 feet into the sky in front of me. We sheltered behind the walls of a Fijian UN position, then gingerly continued our journey, carrying blanrefugees in Irish UN compounds as the shells hissed over the road above us.

It was on our way back that we heard the guns that would give new meaning to the of-fensive which the Israelis inexplicably called – and surely with deep regret today - "Op-eration Grapes of Wrath". One burst of fire sounded like Katyusha missiles being fired from the area of Qana but my memory insists that the sound came during - not before - the big guns fired into Qana. We could hear the Israeli rounds landing, great thumps, audible

inside our thin-skin UN vehicle. It was exactly 2.10pm when the radio crackled in the front of the truck and Commandant Smyth craned forward to turn up the receiver. "Our headquarters are being shelled," a voice said, a Fijian voice with just a hint of anxiety. There was a confirmation from the UN's operations headquarters in Naqqoura - just north of the 1s-

then the Fijian voice returned, this time far less confident. "The rounds [shells] are falling here now," it said. "They are falling here now." We had heard Katyushas several times during the day, fired from across the hills. But there was no reference to them on the radio traffic; indeed, the operator

them. It was now 2.12pm. UN operations came back over the air. We are contacting the IDF [Israeli Defence Force]," the voice said, apparently an Irish officer. But the Fijian returned, desperate now. "Do you understand?" he shouted. "They are firing on us now. The headquarters is hit. A building in the headquarters has been demolished." We could hear that same thumping sound from across the valley as the rounds exploded on Qana. Back came the Fijian, so desperate that UN operations could not understand bim. "Slow down slow down," an Irish voice told him gently from Nagqoura. It was now around 2.20pm.

at Qana may never have heard

The sun was high in the sky. Visibility was good. The distant sound of shells could still be heard. There were almost inaudible reports over the air. There had been six incoming rounds, then more. The guns I had heard were firing a shell every five seconds. A Lebanese UN liaison man came on the line from the burning Qana UN beadquarters. "People are dying here. We need help."

Naqqoura came back on the air, repeating that the Israelis had been informed. "Help is on its way, help is on its way, help is on its way." We could hear the UN's medevac emergency teams being ordered to Qana along with 70 UN armoured personnel carriers and ever every ambulance in the Unifil command. "Air medevac is under way," a voice said, presumably at UN operations. "We have casualties, we have casualties, at least six dead." Commandant Smyth looked at me and said nothing. We both knew

the Fijian battalion headquar-ters and that they must be dying in their dozens. They were. By the time I had passed Tire

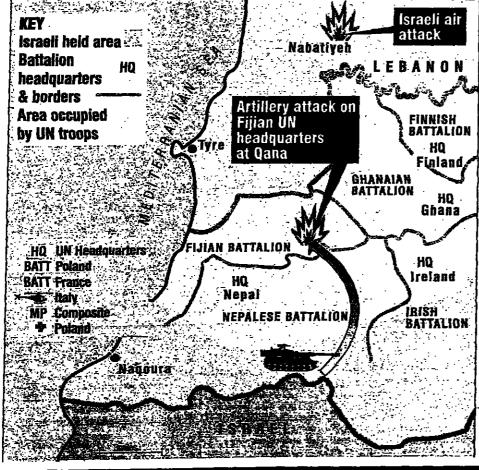
to turn east towards Qana, the nounced that the Israelis had ordered a halt to all shelling across the UN zone to allow aid to reach Qana. It was untrue. Exactly two minutes later, the Irish UN troops at Tibnin ra-dioed that that their battalion area was under Israeli fire.

Driving at speed over the hmken roads to Qana with an armoured UN ambulance and a convoy of French and Polish troops, the shelling lost its power to frighten. We could hear the bangs and thumps outside the vehicle, far away now, it seemed, perhaps in the Irish area, but the moment we approached Qana, we could see the dense clouds of white smoke rising from the embers of the Fijian headquarters. When we arrived at the front gate, I found a set of bloody footprints at the gate and then a stream of blood running from a gutted building.

So what, we were left asking, was the justification for such a bloodbath? The Katyusha rockets - six of them - had most assuredly been fired from close to to the UN compound at Qana, two minutes before the murderous burst of incoming shells. But the Israelis not only knew UN buildings were there and that they housed refugees; they could communicate via UN operations with the Fijians.

All morning I had heard UN posts across southern Lebanon receiving Israeli warnings of imminent air attacks in their area. Only a day earlier, how-ever, UN Irish troops had to retreat from the village of Bradchit after the Israelis had been informed that they were taking humanitarian into the village.

Yesterday, Fijian soldiers told me they received no Israeli warnings of incoming shellfire. All they knew was when the first rounds came crashing down upon the 600 men, women and children in the headquarters buildings.



Artillery 'error' costs scores of Lebanese lives

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY Defence correspondent

If the Israelis did not intend to launch a heavy artillery strike on a known United Nations base where refugees were sheltering, the only other explanation for the attack at Qana yesterday is military incompetence on a previously unthinkable scale.

Intelligence sources said they could not believe the attack was deliberately targeted against a known UN position which would have been clearly marked on Israeli maps and that it must have been a "cock-up".

There were reports of a Hizbollah multiple rocket launcher battery 300 metres away, but the Israeli forces should have been very careful if that was the target, given the close proximity of a known UN base. The Fijian battalion, whose headquarters was set on fire, had been in the base for a long time. After nearly a week of continuous action it is possible that tiredness and elation experts are doubtful about the among the Israeli troops caused Israelis' attempted use of air an error. If so, the error was very

Since Israel launched "Grapes of Wrath" a week ago, its vaunted military reputation has been severely challenged. The attacks on Lebanese villages by Israeli aircraft have caused numerous civilian casualties, but failed in their stated aim of silencing the multiple rocket launchers which have been firing at northern Israel.

The reasons are simple. A modern artillery force uses radar to plot the trajectories of incoming artillery and mortar rounds and can pinpoint the fir-ing position within a minute or so. Rockets are harder to track, and the so-called "katyusha" ("Little Kate") rockets fired by Hizbollah forces from southern Lebanon have often been fired not from multiple mountings on lorries but from individual launching rails which can then be abandoned. Western military

power and artillery to neutralise the rocket launchers.

"Without putting troops on the ground it's a waste of time, one expert said yesterday. They re just alienating the rest of the population and acting as a recruiting drive for Hizbollah." The Israeli armed forces

have a technological edge over all their potential adversaries in the region, but there are weaknesses. Although the air force and technical troops are highly professional, many of the Israeli ground troops are con-

The Polish commander of the United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon (Unifil), Major General Stanislaw Wozniak, said: "We were not aware that there was a Hizbollah position about 300 metres away." Israel has told the UN its troops have strict orders to avoid inflicting any casualties on Unifil, which has about 5,000 stationed



Firepower: Israeli artillery pounding southern Lebanon

troops in southern Lebanon. Five Israeli shells which landed near the headquarters of the UN base were believed to be 155mm rounds fired from American M-109 self-propelled howitzers. The shells weigh about 100lb each and when they explode can kill people up to

100 metres away.

Artillery is an "indirect fire" weapon, fired at targets invisible from the gun position, although it is usually directed by observers who can see the target. With modern mapping,

laser rangefinders and unmanned surveillance drones, the first shells should land close to the target, and the next salvo should be spot on. When "adjusting fire" artillery usually fires one round at a time, not five. Even if the Israelis were aiming at a rocket battery 500 metres away, they should not have hit the UN position and its presence should have been a

major deterrent. Instead, they hit the Fijian UN headquarters, right in the middle of the position.



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MASSACRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Islamists kill 18 tourists in Cairo bloodbath

EILEEN LAWRENCE

An Easter tour by elderly Greek pilgrims ended in tragedy yesterday when gunmen shouting "Allahu akbar", or "God is Great", opened fire at their hotel near the Pyramids.

Eighteen of the holidaymakers were killed and 16 wounded, including at least three who were hospitalised in intensive care units. An Egyptian man was also wounded in

The tourists were moving from the Europa Hotel into a bus for a trip to the Mediter-ranean city of Alexandria when the four gunmen struck. One of the gunmen stood back, standing guard with a pistol, while three others blasted at the tour group with Kalashnikovs. witnesses said. They shot out windows on both sides of the bus and sprayed fire at the tourists

lined up to get inside.

Blood spilled down the steps of the hotel, which is popular with European package tour groups, and with Israeli travellers. The hotel facade was punctured with bullet holes, and the stairs in front were litand water bottles that the in recent months has been con-

There was no immediate

claim of responsibility but police speculated it was the work of Al-Gamma Al-Islamiya, or the Islamic Group, which has claimed most attacks on tourists since 1992. The group is dedicated to overthrowing Egypt's secular government and installing an Islamic regime.

Analysts said, too, that there

could be a connection with the carnage in Lebanon, where Israeli forces have been bombing in a campaign theoretically

aimed at Muslim guerrillas. Mohammed Sid-Ahmed, an analyst with Egypt's Al-Ahram newspaper, said the gunmen may have mistaken the Greeks

for Israeli tourists.

I think the event is very much linked to the Middle East situation." he said. "It's the higgest event of this sort in

Egypt ever involving tourists." The last major attack on tourists on Cairo was on 27 December 1993, when extremists armed with guns and explosives forced their way aboard a tour bus in Old Cairo, wounding eight Austrians. But a clampdown by police drove the militered with bags of sandwiches tants south, and most violence

tourists had packed for their fined to the Assiut area. As a result, the tight security that used to be provided at Cairo hotels has eased.

The 88-member Greek tour roup had visited Jerusalem for the Orthodox Easter Sunday last weekend, then toured monasteries in the Egyptian Sinai desert before arriving in

Anne Borkowska, an Australian travelling with the group, was leaving the hotel restaurant when she heard shots.

"The man in front of me was shot . . . in the legs," she said. There was blood everywhere. He must have died from the haemorrhaging."
Ms Borkowska called the

victims "martyrs", saying they "died for the faith and belief in God ... They died after wor-shipping and paying respects to the Almighty in Jerusalem."

A bellboy at the hotel, Sayed Zaghioul, said some of the tourists escaped death only because they were behind the bus. "If the bus had not been there. It would have been worse," Mr Zaghioul said.

Some 920 people had been killed in Egypt in attacks involving Islamic militants before yesterday's attack. Eight

GOING

ON HOLIDAY?

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Police outside the Europa Hotel in Cairo yesterday where 18 Greek tourists were gunned down. Muslim militants have been blamed for the attack

Photograph: AP

Britain warns of Egyptian travel risks

LOUISE JURY

The Foreign Office last night warned British holidaymakers that their security could not be guaranteed if they travelled through parts of Egypt.

As the implications of yesterday's massacre reverberated through the travel industry, officials upgraded previous advice to visitors to be vigilant. They warned that travellers should not visit the central part of the country, including the top tourist destination of Luxor.

A statement issued last night said: "Almost 300,000 British tourists visited Egypt in 1995 without security incident. The Egyptian authorities attach the ighest priority to protecting visitors. But, as the latest attack has shown, security cannot be guar-anteed and tourists appear, in this incident, to have been the deliberate target. Visitors are advised not to travel by road, rail or river to or through the Governorate of Minya, unless they have specific business there."

The massacre comes just as the tourism industry was recovering from the first terrorist attacks four years ago.

Despite the latest warnings Alex Woolfall, of the Associa-

tion of British Travel Agents said many would continue to go because Egypt was a unique des-tination. "If there is a threat said: "The advice at the moment

Cla purn uts to elect

island, you go to another island. But there is nowhere quite like Egypt. People want to cruise down the Nile and see the pyramids at Giza. They want the particular experience you can only get in Egypt."

only get in Egypt.

Abta always passes on the latest Foreign Office advice to members and suggests that people follow the advice, said Me Woolfall, who added that he would be Egypt less month.

travelled to Egypt last month.

Militant groups have said
they would target tourists since 1992 and Egyptian authorities have spent a lot of money on tourist police," he said.
"This is one isolated incident

at a hotel outside Cairo. Five years ago, people would be put off by a bomb, but there has been fighting in northern Sri Lanka and people still go, and 12,000 people went to Croatia last year despite the fighting.

Ahmed Sharaf, press attaché. at the Egyptian embassy in London, said they had few details of the latest incident but "this is an individual attack and we don't know what the motives are. But it [Egypt] is safe".

Egyptian Tourist Office, which

Bitter grapes of wrath land at Egypt's door

Egyptian officials were torn yesterday between their commitment to Middle East peace and persuading tourists that the Cairo shooting was not a rerun of the 1992 campaign to wreck the tourist industry but an attack to avenge Israel's raids on Lebanon.

Yesterday's tragedy, seen by Egyptian officials as a case of mistaken identity, was not what President Hosni Mubarak had in mind last month when he They also say Islamic terrorists warned Israel that its actions fol- are usually uninterested in forlowing the Hamas suicide bombings could backfire.

Only 10 days ago Amr Moussa, the Egyptian Foreign Sec-retary, told his parliament that Israel was partly to blame for creating Hamas by its collective punishment of the Palestinians. Predicting some action by Is-lamic radicals when Israeli war planes hit Beirut last week, Egyptian diplomats warned their Israeli counterparts that attacks on Lebanon could get out of hand and destroy the peace. What they did not predict was

that Egypt's newly restored tourist industry would also ex-perience the bitter taste of Israel's "grapes of wrath", as its operation in Lebanon is called. "It looks like a case of either mistaken identity or poor intelligence on the part of el-Gamaat el-Islamia." said a Cairo based diplomat. He was among many who believed that Islamic militants sympathetic to the Iranian backed Hizbollah in Lebanon carried out the attack, against people, in the words of

Israeli tourists, or Jews and their friends". The Europa Hotel is used by Israelis and the Greeks who were killed could easily have been mistaken for them. Many of the tourists arrived a day earlier from Israel on coaches as part of a flourishing tourist business combining visits to ancient sites in both countries. Observers and security spe-cialist say the style of the attack

one official "they thought to be

COMMENTARY - using three or four automat-

ic weapons on the same operation - was not part of el-Gamaat el-Islamia's usual strategy. The police have largely confined the members of the group to villages in the south and their operations for the last 18 months have been limited to planting the odd bomb or attacks on individual officials. eign policy, but they make dar-ing attacks like this when Islamic issues are involved. They also point at the call by Hizbollah and Iranian radicals

Mubarak: Warned Israel about attacking Hamas

for attacks against perceived Western Zionist targets.

First to arrive at the scene was Egypt's top security official, Interior Minister Hassan el-Alfy, who was appointed at the height of the campaign of violence against tourists with a brief to use tough measures to reassure the Egyptian public that he would get the problem under control. By the middle of last year General el-Alfy confidently reported to parliament that the extremists were on the run.

It was a successful combination of tough measures - which earned the Egyptian government condemnation by national and international human

rights organisations – and a debate in the media that made people choose between two different faces of Islam. Moderates who have members in parliament were allowed to op-

erate and publish freely. But the militants helped bring about their own defeat. Their at tacks on tourists alienated the Egyptian public, a fifth of whom earn their living directly or indirectly from tourism. Last year witnessed the largest increase in tourism since the Gulf war as the militants' attacks were limited to ambushing government officials in the south, planting bombs or harassing Egypt's

Coptic Christian minority. One of Mr Mubarak's advisers yesterday told the Independent the President always expected trouble from the militants when the media presented a regional crises as a conflict between Islam and the West. There is an influential radical Islamic/Arab nationalist trend in the Egyptian press and since Israeli planes began to raid Lebanon, Egyptian publications have printed headlines not seen since Nasser's nationalistic speeches were used to ignite press attacks on Israel and the United States in the

Throughout last week, not a single commentator, official or diplomat in Egypt directed any blame at Hizbollah for firing rockets into northern Israel. All blamed Israel. In private Egyptian officials admit they are aware of Hizboliah's Iranian inspired agenda of destabilising the peace process.

Yesterday's attack, however, not only hit Egypt where it hurts, but also put another nail in the coffin of Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres' vision of a new Middle East where shared economic prosperity, built on open borders, trade and tourism between neighbours, would cement the peace.

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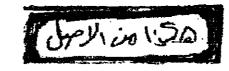
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news

ain warns – Egyptian • Wel risks Clarke spurns tax cuts to buy election

DONALD MACINTYRE

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancel-lor, forcefully held the line yesterday against increasingly strident calls from the Tory right for a giveaway budget in a move which overshadowed urgent attempts by John Major to pacify his 1995 leadership challenger John Redwood.

Mr Clarke, obliged to announce a much higher-than-forecast £32.2bn borrowing figure, said that in the November Budget: "It would be wholly wrong to attempt to buy the next election by irresponsible tax cuts and we have no intention of doing so."

Mr Clarke's tough warning that his "main aim" was not just tax cutting shows every sign of being fully supported by the Prime Minister, who has regularly let it be known in recent weeks that the demand for tax cuts must be balanced by the

need for quality public services. Mr Major never the less went out of his way to reassure Mr Redwood — one of those most strongly advocating tax cuts among other policy goals — that remarks he had made to reporters on his flight to Kiev about "reckless and silly" poli-cies had not been a reference to Mr Redwood.

In an unusual move, Norman Blackwell, head of the Downing Street Policy Unit, was authorised to tell Mr Redwood personally that the Prime Minister not only had not been referring to him, but - according to Redwood aides - had also

State for Wales and had agreed with much of it.

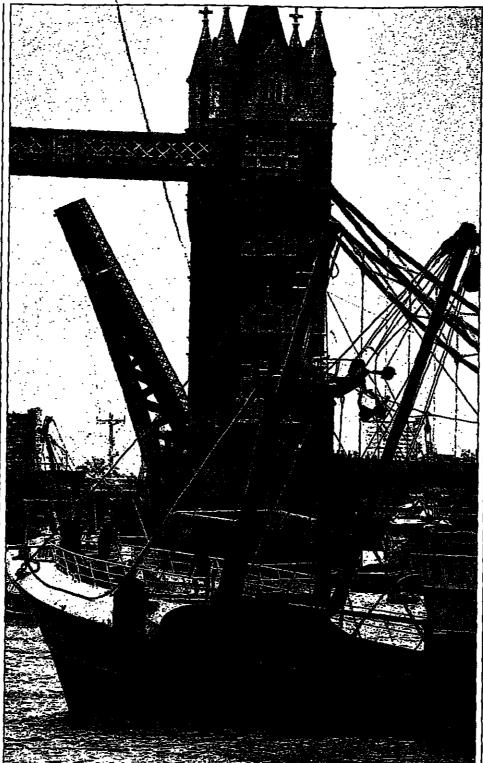
The latest developments were fresh evidence of tensions between Mr Major and sections of the party which a leading arti-cle in yesterday's Daily Telegraph did little to dispel. The pro-Tory newspaper declared the Government a "disaster" and demanded an outright declaration that it would not join a single Euгореап ситтепсу.

This provoked a characteristically forthright response from the pro-European Chancellor who said: "There are parts of the Tory press which believe that Reaganomics and Euro-scepticism are the answers to everything. Well, they're not."

In the Commons yesterday, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, backed the Chancellor's insistence that tax cuts would only take place when it was prudent to make them and insisted: "The conditions are now in place to secure a fifth Conservative victory. With excellent economic forecasts and with improving standards in education we shall see the present Prime Minister back in his present job after the next election."

But right-winger, Edward Leigh, MP for Gainsborough and Homeastie, told BBC Ra-dio 4's World at One: "Kenneth Clarke won't admit now that his priority is tax cuts because that would give the impression that he was thinking politically, and he mustn't do that.

"But of course we must have tax cuts. I know there will be tax cuts, there must be tax cuts, because that is the way in which we read a weekend newspaper ar-ticle by the former Secretary of interests to vote Conservative." can make it in our supporters'



Water under the bridge: One of the West Country the Thames yesterday as Common Fisheries policy

trawlers which sailed up part of a protest at the EU Photograph: Philip Meech

IRA is playing long game of violence

The explosive device which went off in London on Wednesday night, though small and causing no casualties, has profound implications for the Irish peace process. Unless something completely unexpected occurs, it seems to signal that there will be no IRA ceasefire

before June 10. All-Party talks involving the British and Irish governments are due to start on that date but the absence of a new ceasefire will mean that Sinn Fein will not be admitted to the negotia-

While there is as yet no definitive indication that the bomb heralds an attempt to resume a full-scale IRA campaign, it is particularly ominous because the device shows the IRA is unimpressed by the plan for

Knowing that Sinn Fein would be excluded from the talks, the IRA thus seems intent on playing a longer game in which violence seems destined

to play a part.
Following the Dockland's bomb the British government technically satisfied the princiole Republican demand when Ana

By that stage, however, the atmosphere was so charged with poisonous mistrust that the prospects of another early ceasefire never seemed great.

The main IRA concern was

to establish that the Government would seriously engage with the peace process and that the proposed talks would be, in the words of a number of Republican sources, "for real". They wished to ensure that in the talks the odds would not be stacked against them, and that negotiations would not stall on the question of the decomissioning of IRA arms.

Most Republicans, however, have concluded that John Major is in the business of making concessions to David Trimble Ulster Unionist Party in the hope of securing its support in the Commons lobbies.

The IRA, in this instance, must have been aware that the explosion coming as it did on the eve of the second reading of the elections bill would be generally ple Republican demand when interpreted as a gesture of op-it set a date for all-party talks. position to the election.

to their liking, the ground rules for the negotiations, which were published earlier this week by the government, gave the impression that London was being quite sensitive to Republican concerns.

The ground rules contained no new element of major concern to Sinn Fein, on the contrary stressing several points on which the Republicans had sought assurances. In particular the document had the effect of reassuring the Republicans that the negotiations would be far-reaching rather than narrowly focused. If Sinn Fein was impressed by any of this, the

The bombing muddies the waters for everyone since it appears that Sinn Fein will be contesting the election while no IRA ceasefire is in existence. This means the party will receive a mandate which will be highly dubious.

Those voting for it will not be unambiguously expressing a commitment to democracy and

David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

Bomb 'a terror warning'

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

The latest bomb to explode in London - the fifth device to be planted in the capital since the end of the ceasefire - was a warning shot" by the IRA, police and security sources be-

But the Prime Minister said that the bomb, which was det-onated on Wednesday night in the front garden of an empty house, would not be allowed to derail the Ulster peace process.

Most of the cordons around the bomb site were lifted yesterday but a small area near the damaged house, in an exclusive neighbourhood in west London, continued to be searched by anti-terrorist officers. The Boltons is inhabited by the rich and famous. Residents include Liz Hurley, the model, and supermarket baron John Sainsbury and his wife Anya, Lord

and Lady Sainsbury of Preston Candover.

Little damage was caused by the small bomb, although nearby windows were shattered by the blast.

The police believe the device was a warning by the IRA to show that they were still capable of hitting targets in London despite losing one of their bombers, Edward O'Brien, who blevy himself up on a London blew himself up on a London bus in February.

Dummies 'mean lower IQ'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS

Babies given dummies as pacifiers are more likely to have a low IQ as adults, a study by a Medical Research Council team has found.

The surprising conclusion is bound to prove controversial, according to the Lancet, which published the research.

But the finding - a spin-off from a study aimed at establishing whether breast-fed babies are likely to be more intelligent - appeared independent of social class, of how many brothers and sisters the children had and of how young the mother was.

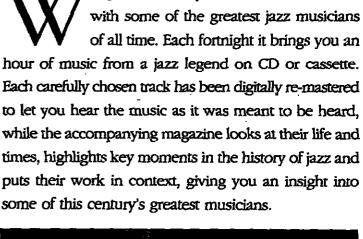
The good news from the research - which involved testing the IQ of almost 1,000 men and women is that the long-sugrested link between breastfeeding and high IQ does not stand up. "Mothers who cannot or who chose not to breast-feed need no longer worry that their children may be less intelli-

gent," the Lancet said. But the finding that babies given dummies ended up with lower IQs is more puzzling. Catherine Gale and Dr Christo-

thors, say there are several possible explanations. Babies willing to take dummies may be slightly less intelligent. Those who took them may have received less stimulation. And dummy-sucking possibly makes babies less interested in their

A leading article in the Lancet, however, says other variables are probably at play. The best evidence, it argues, is that "intelligent, loving and caring mothers are likely to have intelligent children, irrespective of how they chose to feed their

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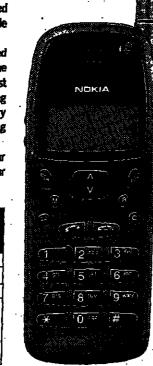
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publish findings of abuse inquiry

ROGER DOBSON

The key findings of a two-year investigation into widespread abuse at children's homes in Clwyd. North Wales, in the 1980s will be published. But the published version may have the sections which could lead to possible libel action by individ-

uals named omitted. William Hague, the Secretary of State for Wales, yesterday ordered councils and the three experts who carried out the inquiry to produce a version of the report that can be safely published. He has also not ruled out the idea of a public incuity called for by the original inquiry team. Mr Hague has also instructed the councils to give the police and prosecution lawyers the full copies of the report to look for any grounds for

reopening investigations. About 300 cases were originally referred to prosecuting solicitors by the police but only eight men were prosecuted. Mr Hague is also unhappy about reports of pressure by insurance companies halting publication of the report.

Suggestions that consideration relating to insurance covor prevent public interest being satisfied seem to me to be un-

satisfactory," he said.
In a hard-hitting letter to Tom Middlehurst, chairman of Flintshire – one of five councils to take over local government responsibility from Clwvd following re-organisation last month - Mr Hague criticises the way the report has been handled. "It is a matter of great regret that a local authority should apparently have commissioned an inquiry into the important and sensitive issue of child abuse in such a way that not even the findings and conclusions of the inquiry team can be made available to the public ... the present situation is

totally unsatisfactory." he wrote. "The legal advice you have received suggests that the report cannot safely be published in its present form. Concerns about possible libel mean that publication could give rise to risks of \ in the summer. grave injustice to individuals."

Hague to Water shortage: Dry winter kept reservoirs low but regional firms pledge to maintain supplies

Millions face more drought this summer

NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

England faces a drought much deeper than last year. At a time of year when reservoirs should be near to overflowing after winter rains, they are only about two-thirds full or less across much of the country, due to far below average rain-

From now until next winter, there will be no further significant replenishment of the reservoirs or the underground equifers on which much of the country depends. Nearly all rainfall from April to October is taken up by plants and dry

Already, 13 million people served by five of the big ten re-gional water companies are subject to hosepipe bans. But despite the lack of supply, the worst since the drought summer of 1976, almost all of them are confident that they can get through even a dry summer without drastic measures such as the use of stand-pipes.

Yorkshire Water, the hardest hit last year, said there would be no need for any road tankering operations such as those which operated during the autumn and winter. Nor would there be any question of rota cuts, in which parts of large towns are cut off for 24 hours at a time.

Only North West Water hedged its bets on the need to take drastic measures if the summer did turn out to be extremely dry. "We have to make contingency plans - we would be remiss if we did not," said a spokesman.

The companies say they are in much better shape to handle a drought than they were a year ago because of a sudden burst of investment in building new pipelines, pumping stations and water treatment plants and in reducing leakage. According to the Water Services Association, which represents nine of them, this amounts to £350m.

This was prompted by the criticism heaped on them by the press, public and opposition politicians last summer, and by the realisation that water resources might not recover over the winter.

The worst-affected compa-nies, North West, Yorkshire, Severn Trent, South West and Southern, have all had to find new ways of moving water around their regions from places of surplus to areas of shortage, effectively boosting their local grids in the process. Another tactic has been to

seek drought orders from the Government and now the new Environment Agency, which started work this month. One type of order allows them to pump extra water out of rivers during the winter, when flows are high, into reservoirs. Another type allows them to re-duce the "compensatory" discharges from reservoirs into streams which maintains a

Jerry Sherriff, head of water resources for the Environment Agency, said: "By and large, those parts of the country that had a dry summer had a dry winter too. Rainfall has been very low for a long time."
But the vulnerable companies

healthy flow.

had planned for a dry winter and put effort into securing supplies, he said. The agency expects that if there is a dry summer, some companies will apply for further drought orders to take more water from rivers and reduce compensatory flows from reservoirs.

"We're not going to allow damaging the river and stream environments through low flows to be a soft option," he said. "Before we grant any such orders the companies will have to show us that they've tried to restrain demand from their cus-

W Welsh Water Rainfall from April '95-March '9

Severn Trent Rainfall from April '95-March '96 es % of long term average

South West Reinfall from April '95-March '9 as % of long term avarage

The looming English drought of '96

Rainfall from April '95-March '96 as % of long term average

Raintal from
April '95-March '96
as % of long
term avarage

IN BRIEF

New murder arrest A second man has been arrested in connection with the murder of elderly motorist Stevan Popovitch. Clive Jones, 25, of Gipton, Lecds, appeared in court for the second time yes-terday accused of killing the 74-year-old grandfather on April 6. Solicitor John Goodwin told Leeds magistrates his client was innocent and police had arrested a second suspect. The

case was adjourned till today. Pilot drug charge

A pilot who made an emergence landing in a Hampshire field was remanded in custody accused of possessing drugs. Graham Jones, 38. from Sydenham, was arrested after more than 20 kilos of herbal cannabis was found near where he landed his light aircraft. His passenger is critically ill after jumping into a spinning propeller.

Survey welcomed

Labour pro-Europeans welcomed a survey of Labour MPs revealed in yesterday's Independent, showing the party is deeply divided over Europe. Giles Radice, chairman of the European Movement, said it showed the party would move in their direction. Full details of the study by David Baker and David Seawright at Nottingham Trent University will be published in the magazine Parliamentary Brief next week.

Gallery Bridge

In later editions of the Independent on Wednesday 17 April a model of a proposed Gallery Bridge across the Thames in London appeared with an incorrect caption. The proposal should have been attributed to Richard Horden Associates.

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Yorkshire supplies half full

Some reservoirs serving drought-hit West Yorkshire are well under half full.

Having spent £100m on boosting supplies, putting in new pipelines and cutting leakage over the winter, Yorkshire Water is now considering what extra measures might he needed to keep its promise of avoiding road tankers and cut-offs later

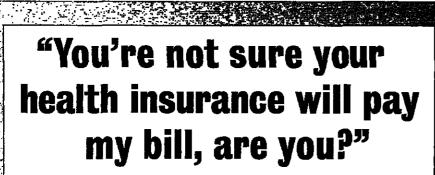
The winter, like last summer,

has turned out to be exceptionally dry in the normally wet west of its patch. A hosepipe ban - which has little effect in winter - already covers some 3.6 million people, and there are also a ban on watering parks, sports grounds and car washes which do not recycle water.

One option is to bring in huge quantities from neighbouring Northumbria Water's regions to

the north, using pipelines and rivers. That company boasts the biggest reservoir in Europe, Keilder Water, which has been under-used since its construction.

The £100m of investment spending in the past six months sounds impressive, but it is not huge in relation to the £1.3bn a year Yorkshire had budgeted to spend on capital works in any





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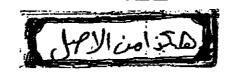
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Prison officers' neglect 'led to inmate's suicide'

Home Affairs Correspondent

Neglect by staff at the troubled Holloway jail - who dismissed police warnings about a suicidal mother - contributed to her death, an inquest jury decided yesterday. Staff were guilty of a "gross failure" to provide basic medical care or attention.

Despite telephoned and writ-ten warnings that Claire Bosley, 34, was an "exceptional" suicide risk, prison reception staff decided to leave her alone in a holding room. She was dead within minutes - although her body was not discovered for an hour-and-a-half, when staff realised she was missing.

In an exact repeat of an ear-lier attempt on her life hours earlier while in police custody, she had stuffed toilet tissue down the back of her throat blocking her airways. Mrs Bosley, who had a nine-year-old son, had been arrested and charged last November after confessing to stabbing to death her husband, Barry. She was diagnosed as suffering paranoid depression following a second ectopic

Hampshire

Damning indictment: The police form warning Holloway

staff that Mrs Bosley was an "exceptional" suicide risk



Claire Bosley: unsupervised

pregnancy which left her unable to have any more children, the City of London coroner's court was told.

The unusual verdict is the first to criticise the authorities over a death in custody following a 1994 Court of Appeal ruling which limited inquest juries' powers to make lack of care or neglect findings in suicide cases. It amounts to the latest in a series of damning indictments in the way the Prison Service has been treating prisoners in the country's largest women's jail. The first came a week after

after Mrs Bosley - before noticing the dead woman's absence. Mis Rosley was been changed with musclening my nine and Borry Rosley by stabbling him a large number of times Whilst in detertion we bastey has attempted to commit suicide by chologing herself lists tessue and brigging her head against walls as snow has required contact

After the hearing, Michael Ainsworth, Holloway's deputy governor, said that changes to reception and suicide prevention procedures had been introduced.

Mrs Bosley's death, with the un-precedented walk-out by the Chief Inspector of Prisons in protest at the infestation of rats, cockroaches and lice and the "overzealous" security at the north London jail. There fol-lowed an equally damning re-port from the jail's Board of

Visitors, pointing to a com-plete management breakdown

within the jail and highlighting concerns over the "degrading" treatment of women. The Board of Visitors had also raised concerns about suicide awareness, saying that de-spite Mrs Bosiey's death and that of another women in the jail earlier in the year - train-

ng remained inadequate. The inquest into Mrs Bosley's death heard that the senior officer in reception who decided that she was not a "major risk" was a suicide awareness trainer. Further, the senior officer, Pauline Martindale, admitted she had not fully read the police warning "Pol 1" form, be-fore making her own assessment. She said her priority had been to deal with two other "dis-ruptive" prisoners, but the inquest jury heard that staff processed" three other nondisruptive prisoners - admitted

Tim Owen, barrister for Mrs Bosley's family, said the police, through constant supervision had struggled to keep her alive for more than 48 hours, whereas the Prison Service failed to manage an hour. Inquest, the body which monitors deaths in custody, called for the Chief Inspector to investigate suicide prevention within the jail.

> of forest in Africa, South-east Asia and Latin America are likely to have been inhabited

Archaeological find: 14,000-year-old paintings offer clue to human evolution



Ancient culture discovered in Amazon

Archaeology Correspondent

Archaeologists have discovered an unknown ancient culture in the heart of the Amazon jungle including the oldest art ever found in the Americas. Dating back 14,000 years,

the discovery changes the way prehistorians have viewed the early cultural and economic development of humanity. The discovery - published in

the current issue of the US magazine Science - shows for the first time that pre-agricultural Stone Age humans were able to survive and flourish in equatorial rain forest conditions. This suggests that vast tracts

viously thought, thus extending the range of the human race's prehistoric habitable world by around 15 per cent.

The archaeologists have also

BOLTYIA

long before academics had pre-

ings on the site - Pedra Pintada near Santarem in Brazil - to 13-14,000 years ago, making them the oldest art works ever

found in the New World. The paintings - dated by hicalibrated radio-carbon dating -show fish, birds, deer and humans, apparently masquerading as insects, stars and comets. One painting shows a figure

with an insect-like head and body, but human limbs. Another bizarre creature is shown falling from the sky and has a human torso, a giant eye, and rays radiating from its head. Other compositions portray hunters with spears and spear throwers, and women having babies.

Similar paintings are scat-tered over hundreds of sites along a 30-mile stretch of the River Amazon.

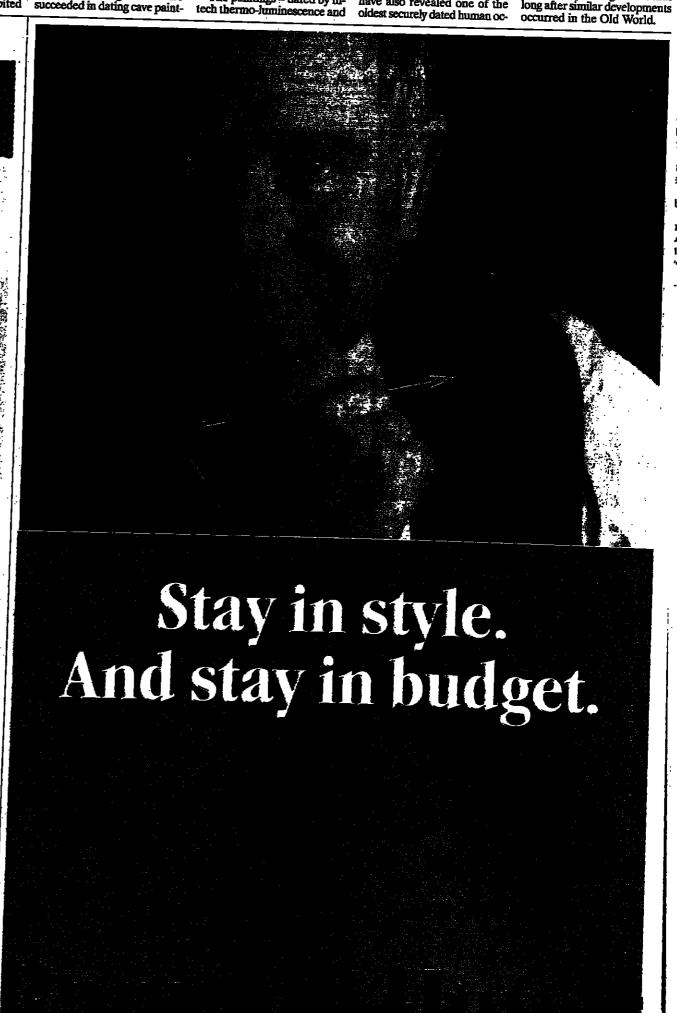
The excavations - led by the US archaeologist Anna Roosevelt of Chicago's famous Field Museum of Natural History have also revealed one of the cupation sites (also 14,000 years old) found in the New World.

Dr Roosevelt suspects that the prehistoric inhabitants of Pedra Pintada were among the first human colonists of South America and that vast numbers of other rock paintings elsewhere in Brazil are also likely to date from this early period.

"It was thrilling when we first reached the earliest occupation level in the cave. Now we plan to look for more sites - this time submerged under the waters of the Amazon," she said.

Huge aggregations of ancient domestic rubbish, mainly shellfish food debris, suggest people had permanent settlements in the New World more than 8,000 years ago - not that long after similar developments





NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

Britain's housebuilding industry is locked in a vicious cycle of low investment and low productivity. building excessively standardised, relatively low quality but ex-pensive homes, according to a study published by the Joseph Rowatree Foundation.

But while the industry could help put its own house in order. Government has a role to play by reducing the volatility of the housing market which makes it difficult for builders and developers to operate, the

study says. Investment in new housing has been falling for 35 years. reaching its lowest point since the Second World War over the past five years, and is far below that of other leading industrialised countries.

And while the demand for new housing is rising, there is little prospect that sufficient homes will be built, says the re-port by Michael Ball, Professor of Urban Economics at the South Bank University, London.

"A standard response to supply problems is to blame firms and workers as being speculators after short-term profits or lazy cowboys." Professor Ball

But there is little evidence that the players in the market are individually failing. Rather. the housing market is so volatile that it is hard for firms to plan ahead, and risky for them to invest in training and new techniques. The result is a chronic shortage of skilled labour and too little use of modern building methods.

Meanwhile the industry is destabilised by a sharp increase in land prices followed by collapse as the housing market fluctuates up and down.

The lack of new build means that homes with a design life of much is spent on repair as new

building. Yet, the repair industry – frequently small, undercapitalised jobbing builders who do no training - is fragmented, tech-nically backward and lacking in business skills. Professor Ball concludes, summing up a three-year project funded by the foundation. And reputable companies are left competing with "cowboy" firms who charge no VAI some operating in the hidden economy.

The unwillingness - and difficulty - of demolishing existing homes and the relative lack of new urban building land is also leading to Britain's cities being "frozen in brick, wood and cement, rather than aspic". The result is more pressure on greenfield sites, with Britain, by default, creating a system whose outcome is greater preservation of the suburb than of the countryside". That, Professor Ball added, "is surely is not what is desired."

Professor Ball's solutions include the Government setting credible househuilding targets and spending more on social housing - council and housing association homes. That spend should rise during downturns and fall during booms, helping smooth market volatility. Stamp duty, likewise, should rise and fall with house prices to smooth demand. And there should be more rebuilding "without re-introducing the mass bulldozing of neighbourhoods."

VAT on repairs and maintenance should be reduced or abolished and building regulations should be strengthened to minimise subsequent repair costs, while "lifetime homes" which are built to be easily adapted for the disabled and back again - should be encouraged.

Housing and Construction: A Troubled Relationship? Policy 60 years are now expected to Press £11.95. Summary free from last far longer and twice as IRF, 40 Water End, Y03 6LP.



On your marks: Tents go up on Blackheath, ready for the start of Sunday's London Marathon; 28,000 runners are expected take part in the

Civil servants spaced out by northern promise

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

Civil servants who relocated to Leeds from London with the promise of a swimming pool, a sauna and squash courts in their new £79.7m office block are being housed in the roof space because the building proved too small, MPs were told

public spending watchdog. found that Quarry House in staff from the departments of health and social security, but it was found to be too small because the design failed to provide sufficient space for plant and machinery.

space in the roof of the flagship office block, and a second of-

The National Audit Office, a Leeds was built to house 2,100

As a result, staff are now beng housed in converted office fice is being rented in Leeds at a cost of £705,600 a year.

The staff were encouraged north by the prospect of a staff restaurant, nursery, swimming pool, sports hall, fitness room, two squash courts and a bar. However, in addition to being housed in the cramped space, they also complained

about defects which are still beng corrected, three years after the last of the staff arrived. The defects included the failure to provide double glazing. They were given single glazing, which the staff complain is too hot in summer and too cold in winter. The local Labour MP, Derek Fatchett, accused the two

departments - run by Virginia Bottomley, then Secretary of State for Health, and Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security Secretary - of "getting their sums wrong".

After renting overspill ac-commodation, they laid off staff, leaving them with excess

office space, he said. Mrs Bottomley scrapped the health regions, reducing the number of health staff in the NHS executive at Quarry House. "This is a clear case of the right hand not knowing what the

left is doing. While people were moving their families up to Leeds at [total] a cost of £12-13m, Virginia Bottomley was planning substantial job cuts." The NAO said the building was built within the budget, and

savings on London property were expected to total over £15m. Its report on Quarry House is expected to lead to an inquiry by the Public Accounts Committee of the Commons. □ Construction of Quarry House. by the Comptroller and Auditor General, HMSO £9.15

Boy, 9, learns to speak after brain operation

Theories about the way children acquire language may have to be re-thought after the strange case of a nine-year-old boy who only learnt to speak after half his brain was removed.

The boy, known as Alex, was born with a rare disorder called Sturge-Weber syndrome which caused him to suffer epileptic seizures which could not be treated with drugs. In addition, he was only able to utter one word - "mama" - and one or two vowel sounds.

Surgeons decided the fits could only be controlled by removing the left hemisphere of Alex's brain. Although the procedure sounds drastic it is carried out on about 10 patients a year. Children treated in this way can lead a nearly normal life, but have lower than average intelligence.

The operation on Alex was performed by Christopher Adams, a consultant neurosurgeon at the Radeliffe Infirmary in Oxford. Almost immediately the seizures disappeared and after four months Alex suddenly began to speak. He is now an articulate 15-year-old and his progress is being followed by researchers from the Institute

of Child Health in London. His case, highlighted in New Scientist magazine, has caused a stir among child psychologists because many experts hold that articulate speech cannot be learnt after the age of five or six.

Dr Elizabeth Isaacs, one of the institute team, said: "There's a lot of controversy and discussion about the acquisition of language ... Here you have a child who at the age of nine started to speak and very quickly developed well-annunciated speech and a wide vocabulary. Obviously this means you cannot say language can never be developed beyond five or six."

Rape lawyer is back in court

Former solicitor Angus Diggle, once jailed for the attempted rape of a woman colleague, drunkenly abused police officers in a town's red light district, a

court heard yesterday.
The 39-year-old Diggle was fined £75 with £125 costs after being found guilty by magistrates in Bolton. Greater Manchester, of drunk and disorderly behaviour.

Diggle, who was given two years jail in 1993 for the at-tempted rape after he had taken the 25-year-old female lawyer to a Highland Ball in a London hotel, had berated two officers about the criminal jus-tice system and called them "filthy slime", the magistrates

heard. One of the officers, Sergeant Ian Campbell, said that when he warned Diggle, of Bolton, to go home during the incident on a Sunday afternoon last November, he replied: "Do you know who I am? I'm a famous person."

Sgt Campbell said after Diggle ignored repeated warnings he was arrested and had to be handcuffed after a "sort of wrestling match". He added that Diggle had refused to sup-ply details about himself and remained "argumentative and uncooperative" even when taken to the police station.

Diggle denied he had been drunk but said he was "very tired and rather emotional". He said he had four or five glasses of wine with his Sunday lunch and was walking to the railway station when he saw two women and a man being interviewed by police. He said because he had had a statement deliberately falsified against him in a trial, he

was worried about the women. "I thought it they were in trouble, and I had not seen ladies in trouble with police before, I must go over and tell them to see a solicitor as soon as they could," he said.

Diggle, who served one year of his two-year sentence reduced from an original three years on appeal, was suspended from professional practice after his conviction and has not reapplied to start practising as a solicitor again.

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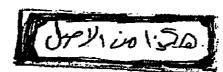


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Rape case lawyer is back in court

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news

Beef dilemma: Scientists and politicians seek solutions

Microwave could be key to BSE crisis

PAUL FIELD

Cattle could be put into an industrial microwave to rid them of the prions which cause bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), according to scientists researching a new method of tackling the beef crisis.

If their studies are successful. the 15,000 cattle over 30 months old slaughtered every week could be kept in the food chain, bol-stering the entire beef industry. The idea is based on the use

of specialist microwaves in the disposal of toxic waste from the pharmaceutical and defence industries. Scientists hope the microwaves would destroy the BSE agent and the carcasses could then be sent for processing.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is to study a detailed proposal from Harper Adams Agricultural College, which is seeking government funding for the project as a long-term strategy to avoid the de-struction of cattle.

The Government has banned all cattle over the age of 30 months from entering the food chain: 15,000 dairy cows at the end of their productive life and around 6,000 prime beef cattle over the 30 months limit are to be destroyed every week.

However, the research at Harper Adams, in Newport, Shropshire, is not likely to be completed for at least 18 months and would require a live test for BSE in cattle.

Richard Bruce, director of Harper Adams Enterprises, explained that the process is not to be confused with domestic microwaving of food - the carcasses would not be cooked.

"If we are able to treat the BSE, an animal — identified as being infected by using a live test - would be killed and then

work in the same way as laser treatment. The prions would be zapped out of the carcass. The

process does not rely on heat." Dr Bruce said the technique would be attractive to the beef industry and to consumers. "It is a clean process ... The animai would be slaughtered first and then microwaved. There is no incineration, no animals

leave the food chain." However, he stressed that the project, in conjunction with a Critical Resource, a waste-disposal firm, is still in its early stages and requires government funding. "There is already interest from MAFF but no commitment as yet." he added. Meat industry representatives

have suggested to MPs on the Commons Health and Agriculture select committees that the removal of the brain, spinal cord and guts from beef carcasses might make no difference to the risk of BSE being passed

Richard Cracknell, vice-president of the Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers, said the chances were "billions to one" that any of the 10 Britons who developed a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) might have consumed parts of the tissues, now referred to as "specified bovine offals". He said that none of the SBOs had ever in his experience been used in the human food chain.

But John Baker, chairman of Britain's largest abattoir, said the only possibility was that the 10 might have eaten products from abattoirs which had not taken out the spinal cord during processing before the 1989 ban on SBOs on carcasses. He also admitted that meat had always been mechanically recov-



Animal magnetism: Visitors at an exhibition of wildlife art at the Natural History Museum in London, which runs until 22 May. The show brings together both historical and contemporary work by more than 300 artists from around the world

Midland passent tuned to ITV for £2m

Midland Bank has paid £2m to sponsor drama output on ITV for the coming year, it was announced yesterday.

Programmes such as Sharpe, Prime Suspect, Morse and new films such as Jane Austen's Emma and Daniel Defoe's Moll Flanders will begin with an in-troductory Midland sequence.

There are existing sponsorship arrangements on the commercial channels. Among the biggest deals, Coca-Cola sponsors ITV films and Coronation Street has backing from Cadbury

Schweppes.
But ITV yesterday called the
Midland deal "the most ambitious and complex . . . to date". It was the first to involve the

corporate sponsorship of a group of different programmes across the ITV network, it said. Midland's chief executive, Keith Whitson, said the company was "delighted" to be as-

sociated with "the very best of British TV drama". He said: "Since the programmes are likely to be watched by some 90 per cent of

the population, we will be reaching into every community we serve in the country. With the banking and fi-

nancial services market becompetitive, it is critical that Midland looks to develop innovative new opportunities."

ered from the spinal column, until the practice was banned made safe ... These microwaves Masari can stay for 4 years

Home Secretary Michael threat to scupper the massive Howard has been forced into a Al-Yamamah defence deal. humiliating climbdown over a bid to expel a leading Saudi dissident from Britain.

Islamic militant Dr Muhammad Al-Masari was told yesterday he could remain in the country for the next four years - and then apply for a further The move came a month af-

ter the Home Office was told by an immigration appeals tribunal to review its decision to throw out the Saudi opposition

Ministers were under heavy pressure from the ruling Saudi royal family to deport Dr Al-Masari or place in jeopardy a multi-billion pound arms deal.

The compromise deal announced today stopped short of full asylum but was accepted by Al-Masari as the next best option. Labour dubbed the decision a "profound humiliation" for Mr Howard and claimed he was paying the price for flout-ing international human rights

It was not immediately clear whether the Saudi authorities would press ahead with their reached with great reluctance.

Defence Minister Nicholas Soames broke the news of the forthcoming announcement during a visit to Saudi Arabia. A senior Whitehall official

said: "We are leaving it to them to make what they want of it. We explained the position to them and we believe they understand the reason for the decision." The Saudi ambassador to London, Dr Ghazi Algosaibi, put a brave face on a decision that will have come as a bitter blow to an authoritarian regime that regards Dr Al-Masari as one of its chief tormentors.

"We have never asked the British Government to violate its own laws, nor will we do that in the future." he said. "Earlier attempts to expel this

dissident were taken within the framework of the British legal system and the new decision is taken within the same system." Immigration Minister Ann Widdecombe said the Government hoped the negotiations would "continue in the usual way" and made it clear that the decision on Dr Al-Masari was

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DAILY POEM

Mississippi River Bridge By Dave Smith

Running after dusk, I see the far southwest corner of the lake shaken. Is it rising up? Girders gleam in glaze of sun, the highest peak wheels or feet can scroll over in this land, no mountains, cliffs, gorges, wooded vistas, little to make the heart thud for littleness of man, except the slow clay-brown swell the Mississippi drags past like hope, manly water deeper than the bridge lifts in the air, its movement hungry for our tossed nightmare We need crossing points to go, delighted as birds, where all is down and swept under, but us, when we grin toward snaky lights far off, still running

Dave Smith is one of America's leading lyric and narrative poets and the author of over a dozen book of poetry. Much of his poetry is set in the rural south and his poetic set is crammed with the detail of its heat, dusty roads, racial tensions and close communities through which run, as a real and metaphoric symbol, the vast ribbon of the Mississippi. This poem is taken from his new collection Fate's Kite, published by Louisiana State University Press at £9.95.

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Passengers bid farewell to the Viscount

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

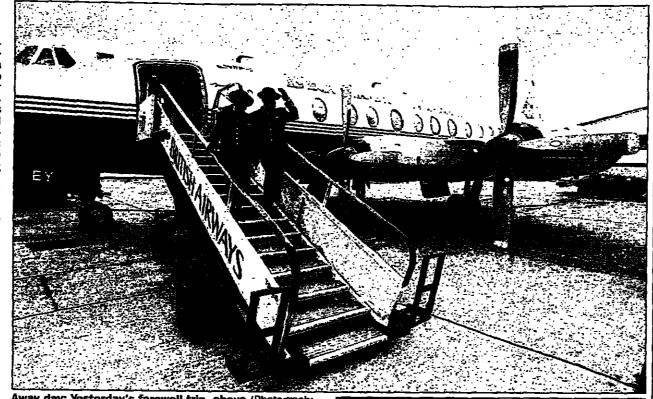
Prince Philip will be delighted. The last Vickers Viscount to carry passengers took off from Heathrow yesterday, almost 46 years after the first passenger flight of the aircraft's prototype.

The workhorse of the skies during the 1950s and 1960s will in future only be used for car-go flights in the UK because British World Airways will no longer use them for carrying North Sea oil workers.

Prince Philip, clearly, will be glad to see the back of them. Writing from Windsor Castle, he said: "The distinctive whine of its Dart engines were very fa-miliar over this castle for years." He added that the aircraft's passengers - he was on one of the carly flights - "will be pleased that it is being given a suitable farewell into retirement".

It almost did not happen. BWA has three Viscounts still fitted for passenger use and the one due to be used for yesterday's hour-long trip for VIPs was driven into a temporary fence by an engineer making preparations at Stansted airport. BWA faces a £45,000 bill and had hastily to fly down one of the other two Viscounts from Scotland for the ceremony.

The 70 passengers included the original designer of the air-craft, 87-year-old Sir George Edwards, and Lord King, the president of British Airways whose predecessor, British European Airways, was the launch customer for the aircraft, 444 of which were eventually built. While BWA has had no mishaps Heathrow in a strong crosswind.



Away day: Yesterday's farewell trip, above (Photograph: Nicholas Turpin) and the Viscount in its heyday, right

with its Viscounts since it bought them from British Airways in 1980, the aircraft's safety record is not that good with around 25 per cent having end-

ed their days prematurely following some form of accident. There was to be no such problem yesterday, though there were a few white knuckles as the old crate took off from

The pilot, Captain Colin Towle, claimed "the turbulence isn't too bad". He might have felt so but at 1,500ft a few passengers were eyeing their sick-hags.

The foolhardy wanting to experience a flight in a Viscount can still find them operating in Zaire, Colombia and Indonesia. with airlines such as Bouraq. Filair Sprl, Mandala and Sanku-



Schoolboy killed 'because he was black'

MICHAEL STREETER

A black schoolboy was murdered by a gang of white youths simply because of the colour of his skin, a court heard yester-

Stephen Lawrence, 18, died from two stab wounds inflicted by racist attackers, motivated by "deep-felt hatred" of blacks. he Old Bailey was told.

Michael Mansfield QC, prosecuting, told the all-white jury. There can be no mistaking that was an unprovoked, unwarranted attack by those who hold not just racist views but racist views which involve the desecration of those who are black by injury and possibly

"Whoever did this was someone who had a deep-felt batred of black people existing." Later, Stephen's friend,

Dwayne Brooks, described seeing Lawrence stabbed and then collapsing on the ground "with blood running on the floor".

Three white youths are the subject of a private prosecution brought by the Lawrence family. Gary Gibson, 20, of Brom-ley, south-east London; Luke Knight, 19, of Ehham and Neil Acourt, 20, of Eitham all deny

Mr Mansfield outlined the events leading up to the killing on 22 April 1993, almost exactly three years ago. Lawrence, a pupil at Bluccoat School, southeast London, was a "ordinary" young man who started that day not knowing it was to be his

He and Dwayne Brooks were on their way home from an evening with Lawrence's uncle when they stopped at a bus stop in Wellhall Road, Eltham after 10pm, said Mr Mansfield.

Soon afterwards, they were approached by a group of four to six white youths - whom the prosecution say included the defendants - one of whom shouted "What, what, nigger" to them. When approached, the black youths tried to run off but Lawrence was not as quick to escape as his friend. Mr Mans-

field said. The schoolboy was sur-rounded and struck by an overarm blow with a weapon such as a "rather large kitchen

Two wounds, on either side

of his chest severed vital arteries and Lawrence was pronounced dead on arrival at

Mr Mansfield said the jury might think that the white youths, who fled into the night, had only one object on their minds that evening, which was to cause serious injury to one or other of the black youths. "This attack was swift, merciless and vicious. They approached to-gether, attacked together and

disappeared together. Mr Brooks, 21, told the jury that one of the white youths had stabbed his friend "with something long". He described the youth at the time as white, 5ft 8in, aged 18 to 22 with an oval face and frizzy hair. He said Lawrence had tried to run away after the attack but collapsed and he saw blood running on

the floor. "I called an ambulance from phone box" said Mr Brooks. An off-duty policeman even-tually stopped his car to help but Stephen died within half an hour, the jury heard.

The hearing was adjourned for legal argument.

Church leader 'was hounded'

A leading churchman accused ly involved with people who of sexual assault yesterday were part of a "wider conspirclaimed that he was the victim of a conspiracy in the Church of Scotland.

Professor Donald Macleod, who is head of systematic theology at the Free Church College in Edinburgh, said that he had been put in an "absurd situation" by the allegations against him.

Edinburgh Sheriff Court was shown a video recording of a police interview in which he said the cusers, a 35-year-old female lecturer, were "completely untrue" He said they were "fabricated".

Professor Macleod, 55, denies five charges of sexual assault involving four women from 1985 to 1991. He was cleared of a sixth charge on Wednesday af-ter legal debate over the date of the alleged incident. Professor Macleod told police

10 years" by people in the church who had taken allegations against him to the church authorities, although the complaints had been had thrown out. He said one of his accusers,

that he had been "hounded for

ments had changed over time. He also claimed that a letter accusing him, written by a 36year-old woman who now lives

acy" and claimed her state-

in Tasmania, Australia, had been instigated by a Rev John Murray. The court was earlier ' told that a special fund paid the woman's airfare so she could give evidence.

Andrew Hardie QC, for the defence, asked Sheriff John verdicts on three of the charges.

Scottish law requires supporting evidence from a source other than the alleged victim before a charge can be proved. In this case the Crown is relying on a rule which allows similar charges to support each other.

Mr Hardie argued that the charges could not be supported by each other since they were not similar in character, circumstances and time. He pointed out that one was far more serious than the others, and another concerned an incident alleged to have occurred five years after the others. The case continues.



The only love lever got from my dad.

This is Michael's story.

'It would start with a smack. But

He'd lay into me like I was his vorst enemy. It was as if he forgot who I was. But he'd usually remember to hit me where it wouldn't show

When he didn't, I'd be kept off school. If a teacher asked me about a cut or a bruise, Pd just lie.

Once he broke my arm. Mum told the hospital I'd had an accident. Finally, a neighbour saw my bruised face, and reported it.

I will always be grateful to my counsellor. He said I wasn't to blame. He helped me to feel better about myself. He was the father I never had, There are thousands of cases similar to Michael's each year, from every level of society. But they are only the up of the iceberg. Thousands more children are the victims of less obvious forms of cruelty.

Some people wouldn't even think of these as abuse. But imagine being constantly shouted at. Or ignored as if you don't exist. Or criticized for everything you do.

The emotional effects can be just as painful as those caused by more obvious forms of abuse including low self-worth, humiliation, loneliness, depression and an inability to relate to others. Some children have even been driven to kill themselves.

Because of all this, the NSPCC has launched a campaign called 'A Cry For Children'. It's a cry to everyone to stop and think about the way they behave towards children.

To listen to them, talk to them and treat them with respect.

And to recognise the impact that any form of cruelty can have on a child. Please answer the cry.

If you, or someone you know is suffering from abuse, please call the NSPCC Child Protection Helpline on 0800 800 500 any time, day or night.

Or if, after reading this, you would find more information helpful. please call us on 017i 825 2775.

NSPCC A cry for children.



'Bolshie' Billericay set for battle



NICHOLAS TIMMINS

Four years ago the beaming smile of David Amess as he held Basildon on the night of the 1992 general election told Labour they were not going to

A few weeks later, the Conservatives swept the hoard in the local elections, taking an unprecedented 10 seat majority on the 42-seat council. Mr Amess joyously pronounced "the death of socialism in Basildon".

But next mouth in Basildon - where Wayne bought his council house in the 1980s and Sharon wore a gold ankle bracelet and white stilettos - the opposite may happen. The council could become a Tory-

All the pressure is on the Conservatives. They are defending all but one of the 15 seats up this time - half of them the fruits of their gains in traditional Labour lerritory in 1992. Four of the Tories' most



Disillusionment: Basildon town centre yesterday, still feeling the hangover from the recession Photograph: Jane Baker

senior councillors, including the group leader, Peter Patrick, are standing down in an air of some bitterness, Mr Patrick complaining it was "galling" to be turfed out last year - leaving Labour the largest party in a hung council - after the Tories had cut Basildon's council tax

along with its budget. In addition, the party has split

locally over a long-drawn out ar-gument over whether Billericay and Wickford, traditional Tory heartlands to the north of Basildon, should move out of the borough. The local people want that, the Local Government Commission recommended it twice, but John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, turned it down.

Traditionally blue seats in Billericay and Wickford have gone Liberal Democrat and the remainder may do so on 2 May. Even Mr Patrick concedes that a Conservative wipe-out in a fortnight's time is "feasible, though I think it's unlikely. We should hold Billericay, but peo-ple are so bolshie I just don't

property even three years ago are still in negative equity. And there is anger over the know what they are going to defection of David Amess MP

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do." No one seems to doubt that

Labour will be in control. Basildon is bustling, but the recession hangover remains. Unemployment is still above the national average at 10 per cent, and some of those who bought

Clarke plays it prudent over tax cuts Cenneth Clarke shrugged Anoff a call for an independent audit of Government bordering to receasts yesterday as he ced the Commons within Inside Parliament SUII over tax cuts

Kenneth Clarke shrugged Koff a call for an independent audit of Government borrowing forecasts yesterday as he faced the Commons within hours of the disclosure that public borrowing for 1995-96 was £3hn more than the Trea-

Basildon council

boundary changes which should

make the seat marginally safer.

"How can a man make a record

saying "I love Basildon" and

then desert? He can't be worth

two bob," said David Ayres, a local estate agent.

there's an election coming up"

of victory. There will, he says,

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sury expected.
With Question Time for Mr Clarke and his team coinciding with publication of the awkward figures, the Chancellor found his economic forecasting compared with that of his prediction of a Conservative victory in the SE Staffs by-election. [The Tories

lost by 13,000 votes.] report less anger against the Tories than last year, more re-Last month the Treasury had to borrow £9.6bn to bridge the gap between its income from signed disillusion. And Conservative hopes are bolstered by taxes and public spending.
Though the figure was slightly
less than expected in the City,
it took the Public Sector Borsome signs of disillusioned activists like Liz Cooksey returning to the fold. She said: "we used to have a great organisation in this ward, but now there's nothing". Without much enthusiasm, she is setting aside doubts over the NHS and rail rowing Requirement (PSBR) for the financial year just ended to £33.2bn - £3.2bn more than Mr Clarke forecast in the privatisation to reioin "because November Budget.

Recalling the misplaced by-John Potter, the Labour group leader, who last led the election optimism, Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, council in the 1970s, is confident said Mr Clarke's borrowing forecast for the next Budget be an element of "prmishing the should be subjected to an in-Tories" on 2 May. "But it's dependent audit "so that the Conservative Party can never also, I think, because we can ofmislead this country about tax and borrowing again"

Mr Brown said that Tory forecasts on borrowing over the last four years had been ex-ceeded by £46bn.

Unbowed, the Chancellor said Mr Brown's history of forecasting was "dreadful" "He advised his party not to

vote against the tax cuts that I was able to introduce in the last Budget - one of the few wise decisions, indeed of the few decisions of any kind, that he has ever taken.

Next year's borrowing requirement would be below £30bn, Mr Clarke insisted. "It is quite clear the borrowing requirement is on a downward path towards balance in the medium term."

He had predicted inflation

Stephen Goodwin

cent and the basic rate of tax would move towards 20 per

With Tory rightwingers in-cluding John Townend, chairman of the Thatcherite 1992 Group, continuing to demand spending cuts to make room for a tax give-away, Mr Clarke stuck to the "prudence" for-mula. "It would be wrong to attempt to buy the next election by irresponsible tax cuts," he told Labour backbencher Chris Mullin who described the Chancellor as being from the "civilised wing" of the Tory

Prominent members of the other wing - the "mean-mind-ed" wing in Mr Mullin's judgement - were busy outside the Commons making common anti-Euro cause with fishermen who sailed their trawlers up the Thames to protest about the Common Fisheries Policy.

John Redwood, last year's Tory leadership challenger and MP for distinctly non-maritime Wokingham, told a rally there was "a smell of brine in the air" and made to heat Drake's drum. "If we cannot get justice in Europe then we must assert our right to govern ourselves."

In the Commons, a real fishermen's representative, David Harris, Tory MP for St Ives. raised their plight with Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, standing in for John

Mr Harris accepted that Britain could not unilaterally withdraw from the CFP and still remain a member of the European Union. He warned: "The CFP is inflicting huge damage on the industry and must be torn would move towards 2.5 per up and renegotiated."

Labour nursery plan

Government's nursery vouchers within a year of being elected and would offer a free part-time place to every four-year-old within 18 months, the party's education spokesman said yesterday, writes Fran Abrams.

David Blunkett declined to say how long it would take the party to fulfil its commitment to a nursery place for every three-

abour would withdraw the Details on how many new teachers would need to be trained were not available.

Launching a campaign against the nursery voucher scheme, which began this week, Mr Blunkett said Labour would honour existing vouchers which had already been sent to parents but would withdraw them after that. He added that the £20m cost of administering vouchers year-old or to full-time places would be put into providing for four-year-olds, however. education for four-year-olds,

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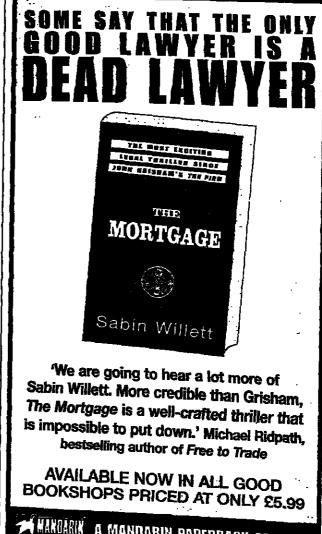
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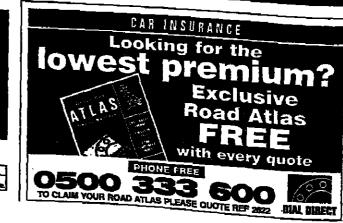
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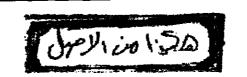


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international 9

ent Yeltsin to glory in Moscow summit

PHIL REEVES Moscow

World leaders, including John Major and Bill Clinton, will convene in Moscow today for what is billed as a summit on nuclear safety but which is also an elaborate display of personal support for Russian President Boris

Yeltsin as he campaigns to win a second term in the Kremlin. The gathering of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations is being held at the suggestion of Mr Yeltsin, who faces a strong Communist challenge in June's presidential election.

Although western diplomats admit the summit, which comes less than a week before the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster and covers a pot-pourri of issues on nuclear safety and security, is unlikely to produce any historic developments, they have been touting it as an important opportunity to forge closer relationships over critical nuclear-related issues.

Of these, there is no shortage. The G7 (or G8, as Russia prefers) will discuss, and almost certainly accept, proposals for their security services to co-operate more closely in efforts to clamp down on the theft and smuggling of fissile material, reducing the risk that weaponsgrade materials could fall into

the hands of terrorists. It will endorse an agreement to shut down Chemobyl by the end of the century, and discuss closing similar ageing RMBK reactors - of which there are 15 in the former Soviet Union and tightening controls on others. Officials say there will be talks over the disposal of nuclear waste and completing a com- American officials have, howprehensive test ban treaty. Rus- ever, invited Mr Zyuganov to a

renewed pressure to sign the amended London Convention which bans the dumping of radioactive waste at sea.

But as Moscow spruced herself up for the event, a ground swell of criticism has surfaced among independent nuclear experts and environmentalists, who allege the summit does not go far enough. They claim it fails to tackle several of the most important issues - for example, the ratification of Start-2.

"Instead of a state dinner, the G7 and Russia should gather for a prayer breakfast," said Dr Tom Cochran, a senior scientist with the US Natural Resources Defence Council, one of a task force of international non-governmental organisations in Moscow. The summit's safety programme is "far too little to prevent another Chernobyl-style catastrophe", he warned.

Similar complaints have been raised by Greenpeace and other environmental groups. The more cynical have not failed to remark on the irony of the summit's co-chairmanship -Boris Yeltsin, whose military forces have dumped some of the most hazardous waste on the planet, and Jaques Chirac, still "public enemy No1" among environmentalists over France's nuclear tests in the Pacific.

This is unlikely to bother Mr Yeltsin, who has reportedly made it clear to his guests - including Mr Clinton - that he wants the lion's share of the limelight as he tries to overtake his chief rival for the presidency, the Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov. Mindful that they may one

day have to deal with him, sia can also expect to be under meeting with Mr Clinton.



Not wanted: Chechen protesters in Grozny demanding the withdrawal of the Russian military presence from the republic at a demonstration earlier this year

Russia is accused of genocide in Chechnya

disastrous war in Chechnya would be quietly ignored at this weekend's G7 summit suffered a nasty setback yesterday when a leading aid agency released a damning report and accused Russia of systematically massacring civilians in the

republic, writes Phil Reeves. Departing from its usual pol-icy of avoiding controversial public statements, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) accused the Russian forces of blocking humanitarian aid. targeting schools, mosques and hospitals with bombs, and firing on fleeing refugees from helicopters.

The agency, which has several bases in the war zone, released the document as world leaders began to arrive in Moscow, saying it was an "urgent call" to the heads of state to pressure the Russians to stop "gross and systematic targeting of civil-ians and the violations of humanitarian law in Chechnya". Although the summit itself is about nuclear safety, Chechnya

Moscow - Any hopes Boris could be raised at bilateral Yeltsin may have had that the talks with G7 leaders. Mr talks with G7 leaders. Mr Yeltsin will also not welcome a public indictment of his failure to settle the 16-month conflict. Another brutal reminder came yesterday when the Russ-

ian military revealed that 53 of its troops - twice the number first reported - were killed in Tuesday's attack on a convoy by Chechen separatists. "It is not easy for the MSF to make this kind of call," said Dr

Eric Goemaere, the agency's director-general, "but we feel that doctors and bandages are not enough to stop this massacre any more." The agency had "very strict rules" about speaking out, but concluded it had no choice but to do so. Mr Yeltsin insists that full mil-

itary operations in Chechnya came to an end nearly three weeks ago, after he unveiled his plan to end the conflict before Russia's presidential elections in June. He now only acknowledges there are continuing special operations" directed at Chechen "bandits"

This is bothy disputed by the MSF, which says village after villace in southern Chechnya is being bombed in a war being waged "behind closed doors". It says civilians are being singled out for attack in violation of the Geneva Convention and other international agreements. "There are as many women and children as there are men (among the victims)," said Dr Goemaere. "Can you say that a 12-year-old, or a 60-year-old babushka [grandmother] are

handits? I don't think so. However, it is uncertain whether the MSF's report, Civilians Targeted, Humanitarian Law Floured in Chechnya, will prompt significant action from the G7 leaders.

The Foreign Office said that Mr Major will raise Chechnya with Mr Yeltsin at a meeting later today, but MSF representatives say that when they recently tried to raise the alarm about the bloodshed in Chechnya by contacting foreign embassies in Moscow, including Britain's, they were told to keep quiet.

Major praises 'free' Ukraine

TONY BARBER

John Major expressed Britain's strong support yesterday for the freedom and independence of Ukraine, saying Europe needed the country to play an important role in the stability of the continent.

President, Leonid Kuchma, at Kiev's Mariyinsky palace, the Prime Minister said: "I am delighted because we are now able to visit an independent Ukraine, independent for five years, that has now set its feet firmly towards a new and different future."

with Ukraine at a time when the question of future security arrangements in eastern Europe deal of progress has been is causing increasing strains between Western countries and

Nato's plans to incorporate some countries west of Ukraine, notably Poland, are being matched by a Russian drive to reintegrate with several former Soviet republics, especially Belarus.

Ukraine, caught in the middle, has no desire at present to join Nato but is determined not clear safety that are to be adto be pulled back into a Russ- dressed at a summit in Moscow ian sphere of influence. Its today and on Saturday.

dilemma is accentuated by the fact that the spirit of Ukrainian nationalism and independence is much stronger in western regions of the country than else-

Mr Major praised Ukraine's efforts to dismantle its Sovietera command economy and introduce market reforms along Speaking after more than an the lines that have proved gen-hour of talks with Ukraine's erally successful in Poland and, increasingly, in Russia. "We believe that Ukraine's success is important for Europe's stability, and we are firm supporters of the independent and democratic Ukraine that is be-

ing created," he said.
"Over the last few years Mr Major's visit was intended Ukraine has been undergoing to underline British solidarity some remarkable political and economic reforms. None of these reforms is easy, but a great made," he added.

Mr Major and Ukraine's Prime Minister, Yevhen Marchuk, signed two agreements covering cooperation against drug-trafficking and the confiscation of profits made from organised crime.

Mr Kuchma, a former director of the world's largest missile plant in Dnipropetrovsk, and Mr Major reviewed issues of nu-

Some people have been giving British beef a roasting lately.



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In cases where mortgage interest rate changes are subject to notice, the decrease will take place after the appropriate-notice period which will commence on 22nd April 1996. There will be no change to the interest rates on existing Secured Personal Loans regulated by the Consumer Credit Act 1974.

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international

Oklahoma City centre becomes a place to cry

TIM CORNWELL Oklahoma City

All that remains of the ninestorey Alfred P Murrah federal building, where 168 people died and another 600 were injured, is a flattened rectangle of uneven ground surrounded by a low wall and a seven foot wire fence. The building was levelled a month after the blast, one year ago today. Fresh turf was laid for the anniversary ceremonies.

Survivors, family members, Vice President Al Gore and more than 1,000 journalists were gathered for a memorial service beginning with 168 seconds of silence at 9.02am.

Judy Kidwell, 50, who a year ago ran from the first floor with her ankle broken in two places, chose this week to return for the first time to the site of a building that housed everything from the Secret Service to social security offices and a bank.

After the bomb struck, people on the fourth floor were found by their desks on the first,

as the floors collapsed. "A year ago this was a beautiful building full of wonderful people," said Ms Kidwell, a court house worker who lost several close friends. "Things were bustling, busy, people coming and going all the time," she said. "Now this is a place

people come to cry." A city called the buckle of the Bible Belt, proud of a hardworking prairie solidarity, has been surprisingly slow to renovate the city centre site, which still looks like a scene from the Blitz. Of more than 100 buildings damaged several of the nearest, including some churches, are still empty shells with boarded doors, with

façades and roofs torn off. Our God Reigns and We Will Remain," says a defiant notice at the First Methodist, but the tarpaulin is peeling off a blackened tower, and the frame

dow lies on the ground. The "survivor tree", a tattered oak across the street from the blast, pointed to the spot has only a few sickly green sprouts. Only slowly, Oklahoma City is recovering from a tragedy that brought terrorism to the American heartland and produced the same kind of shared national grief that followed the shootings in Dunblane. Scotland.

where he was found. "Hate in-

spired this," he said. "I pray for "!

Margaret Woodworth from

Cambridgeshire, married to a

US serviceman and now an

Oklahoma City resident, came with her English grandchildren

to leave two teddy bears. "For

all the little children from a lit-

tle English rose," the attached message read. "We are just drawn down here," said Mrs

Woodworth. "It is something

that compels you."

whoever did this, because they

had hate in their heart."

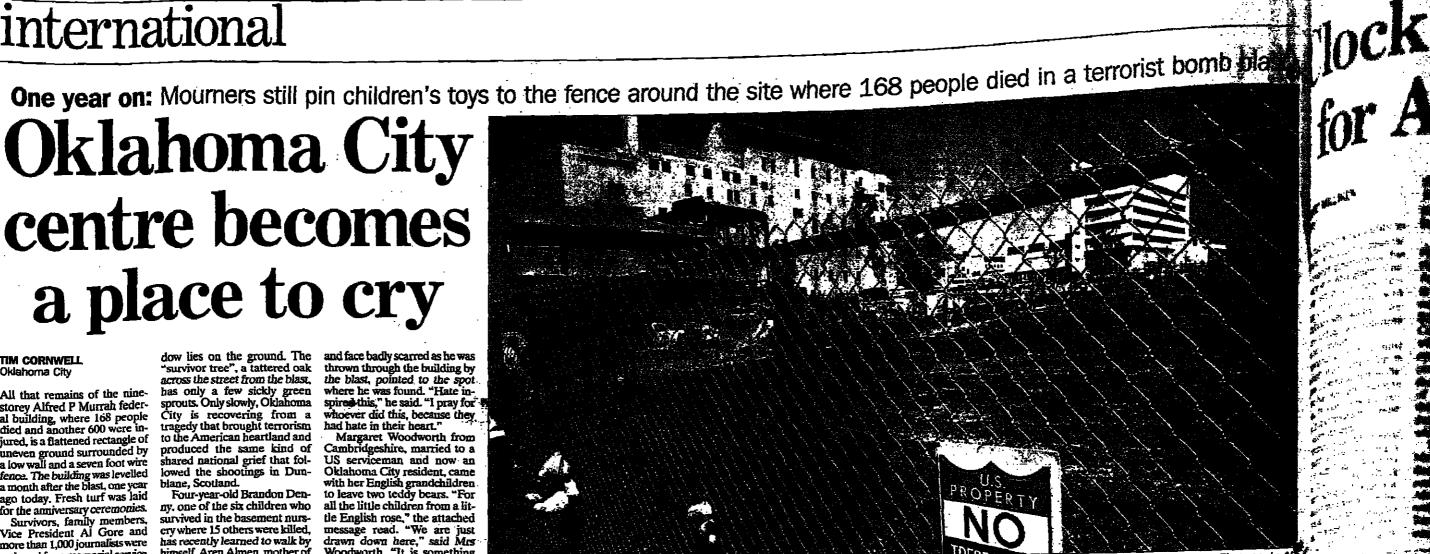
Four-year-old Brandon Denny, one of the six children who survived in the basement nursery where 15 others were killed, has recently learned to walk by himself. Aren Almen, mother of Baylee Almen, killed one day after her first birthday, has been befriended by the fireman, Chris Fields, who cradled her hody as he carried it from the wreckage, the moment captured in a photograph which be-came the defining image of the disaster. While the city waits designs for a monument, the wire fence itself has become the unofficial memorial.

There was an Easter bunny and a birthday card pinned there for Baylee this week. People have left carrings, hair pins, baby booties, endless stuffed toys and even nappies with messages attached.

"They felt like they needed to leave something, said Bill Welge, an archivist at the Oklahoma Historical Society, whose staff have week by week stored the offerings in a warehouse on the edge of town that now contains 200,000 items. Oklahomans described the anin the grieving process.

But there will be no closure, they say, until the trial of alleged bombers Timothy McVeigh and James Nichols, now threatening to drag on well into next year. Many believe the two men are guilty but after the OJ Simpson trial say cautiously they will wait for the jury's verdict.

Randy Ledger, a maintenance from half a shattered rose win- worker whose jugular was cut



Remembrance day: The site of the Alfred Murrah building in Oklahoma City, which has remained undeveloped since the blast

New law will cut Death Row appeal rights

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

Dismissing strong protests by civil liberties groups, the US Congress is passing legislation which will sharply reduce the appeal rights of Death Row inmates and probably lead to a significant increase in the number of executions here.

The measure, part of the anti-terrorism Bill which Congress wants to sent to the White House to mark the first anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, was approved in the Senate by an overwhelming bipartisan margin of 91-8 and was expected to attract similar support in the House. Though he has misgivings about other provisions in the legislation, President Clinton has indicated he will back the legislation.

The changes, long demanded by state prosecutors and relatives of victims, are aimed at reducing the long delays between the sentencing and execution of a convicted murderer, resulting from the multiple possibilities of appeal offered by the parallel state and federal judicial structures.

Under existing habeas corpus rules, an appellant has recourse to three layers of state courts, and three levels of federal

decades, to the anger of death penalty supporters who claim that most of the appeals are either frivolous or repetitious.

At present, more than 3,000 prisoners are on Death Row. According to the anti-capital punishment Death Penalty Information Center, the average wait between conviction and execution is eight years, but in some case 20 years or more can elapse before a sentence is carried out. In California alone, 436 people are on Death Row, yet the state has only executed three people since capital punishment was restored in 1977.

The new Bill, due for a House vote late yesterday, sharply limits the rights of a federal judge to intervene in state cases. Henceforth, he will only be able to overturn a death sentence passed by a state court if it was caused by "an unreasonable application of federal law". Inmates who have lost appeals in state courts will be allowed only one appeal to a federal court, which must be filed within a year. The federal court must then give its ruling within six

Advocates of capital punishment say the appeals process should thus be kept to two years or so, but opponents in-sist that the new rules will vircourts. Skillfully manipulated, tually guarantee miscarriages of the process can be spun out for justice.

US proposal offers hope for Korean stand-off

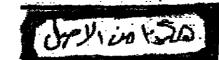
Amid rumours of further mili- certain whether the proposal tary tension on the Korean border, North Korea announced yesterday that it was considering a proposal by South Korea and the United States to convene four-way talks aimed at bringing permanent peace to the divided peninsula, writes Richard Lloyd Parry.

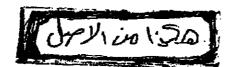
In a statement carried by the official Korea Central News Agency, the North Korean Foreign Ministry responded for the first time to the idea of a conference bringing together the US and China, as well as the two Koreas, saying it was not yet in 1953.

was aimed at concluding a "genuine peace agreement between the signatories to the Korean armistice agreement." They were, they said, examining the proposal's feasibility.

The suggestion came out of a summit meeting on Tuesday between President Bill Clinton and the South Korean President Kim Young-sam, and represents the latest attempt to end the armed stand-off which has divided the communist north and the US-backed south since the end of the Korean war

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international

Clock spins back for Aborigines

Robert Milliken Sydney

Less than seven weeks after its election, Australia's conservative coalition government has moved to strip Aborigines of autonomy over their affairs, provoking a confrontation with black leaders who accuse Canberra of turning race relations back half a century.

Aboriginal leaders around the country united yesterday in a chorus of condemnation as the Liberal-National government headed by John Howard declared its determination to push the changes through.

Sentiment in the Aboriginal community is now reaching a state of siege, said Roberta Sykes, head of the Black Nomen's Action in Education Foundation and a winner of the Australian Human Rights Medal. "It seems the govern-

them' and spun the clock back 30 years. By 2000, Australian race relations may have slipped back 100 years."

Mick Dodson, a leading Aboriginal bureaucrat, said: "Aborigines' relations with the Australian government are now at crisis point." His view was supported by Noel Pearson, head of the Cape York Land Council in north Queensland, who said: "This government's approach to indigenous affairs could see Aborigines return to the confrontationist approach of the 1970s." He added that this could lead to great unrest during the 2000 Olympics. which will take place in Sydney.

Their anger has sparked from Mr Howard's announcement that the government would remove autonomy for spending on Aboriginal affairs which now rests with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. The commission, based

tricky?

in Canberra and largely run by blacks, is the supreme policy-making public body over Aboiginal affairs. In its six-year

life, the commission has become one of Australia's most turbulent bureaucracies; it has a budget of 1bn Australian dollars (£500m), and almost 600 elected councillors. The commission's critics, including prominent Aborigines.

accuse it of being an expensive

failure. They cite the fact that

Aborigines still have one of the world's most appalling health standards and a life expectancy 20 years below that of whites. Colin Tatz, one of Australia's most prominent writers on race relations, said yesterday: "Unless the bully-boy stuff ceases and some wise action begins soon, by the time we get to the Olympics the stage will be set

for confrontation that the



world's cameras will be only too Dreamtime: Gough Whitlam, then Prime Minister, pours earth through the fingers of Vincent Liangal in 1975 to mark the first Aborigine land rights Photograph; Penny Tweedie

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Colombian lawmaker released unharmed Bogota - Jose Maya Garcia, a key Colombian lawmaker kid-

napped by leftist rebels over the weekend, was released unharmed late on Wednesday by the National Liberation Army (ELN), in the same southwestern Valle del Cauca province where he was abducted on Sunday.

Abraham Lincoln's image

ident Abraham Lincoln sold for \$39,100 (£25,400) at Christie's, leading a sale of rare signed photos of some of the most famous politicians, scientists and cultural figures of the past 150 years. Karl Marx, Queen Victoria. Pope Paul VI, Charles Darwin, Benito Mussolini, the Beatles, Claude Monet, Helen Keller and Sigmund Freud were among up to 300 celebrates and historical figures whose signatures were on the block, but composer Gustav Mahler's photo brought the second highest price. \$25.3(0).

The night George lost it all

There are a number of the-ories as to why George Bush lost the 1992 presidential election but the most plausible is the simplest. The American public could not live with a leader who threw up in the lap of his host, in full view of the television cameras, as Mr Bush did so memorably in January of that year, delivering the contents of his stomach with minimal ceremony into the trousers of the Japanese Prime Minister of the time, Kiichi Miyazawa.

It is understandable that both the Japanese and Mr Bush's successor were terrified of a repeat performance on Wednesday night, when Bill Clinton was guest of honour at the Imperial Palace. To ensure that, should the worst happen, the world would this time not know about it, the Japanese authorities insisted that pre-positioned television cameras be turned off, turned away from the tables and aligned parallel with the wall.

"wo weeks ago we drew at-I tention to the uncanny resemblance between the pronouncements of a Bulgarian soothsayer named Granny Vanga and those of our Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke. The evidence of Mr Clarke's consultations with the blind octogenarian was limited at the time to some telling echoes of the old lady's vague optimism in Mr Clarke's statements.

This week, however, in a move that can only fuel speculation, Mr Clarke went to Sofia. The pretext was to attend the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. But he took the opportunity vexed question of Britain's participation in European monetary union.

It was, he said, "perfectly possible that Britain might be a participant in economic and monetary union*. The words could have fallen from Granny's own lips. The suggestion of certainty in the word "perfectly", immediately undermined by the word possible", then squashed with the word "might": those other politicians who visit Granny for guidance would surely recognise her style. But





bring shame on the Chancellor. If it was Granny Vanga who gave Mr Clarke the confidence to stand by his hunches" and keep interest rates down in the face of Eddie George's economic "wisdom". perhaps we should be thankful he is so open to advice from unconventional quarters.

Nicoletta Mantovani, talk-ing in an interview this week about the early days of her relationship with Luciano Pavarotti, complained: "At the beginning we had a lot of problems because I was bored to death by listening to

Ms Mantovani has just supplanted Adua, the tenor's partner in a marriage that was years old when Nicoletta was born. In the days Nicoletta referred to, the relationship was supposedly one of secretary and employer. What kinds of problems was she talking about? Did she threaten not to type his letters unless he sang a few rock numbers? Was he driven mad by ringing telephones, which were magically answered once he agreed to make a record with U2?

Whatever happened at the beginning, however, everything has worked out in the end. "The last year was hell . because I don't like to tell lies," she was quoted as saying. "Since the truth has been revealed I'm happy.

James Roberts

Four die in rush for Bosnia deadline

Tuzia - Four members of the Nato-led peacekeeping force in Bosnia died yesterday as the midnight deadline for the former warring parties to pull back soldiers and heavy weapons approached. A Dane and a Lithuanian were killed in a landmine explosion and two Swedes died when their armoured personnel carrier plunged off a road. A Nato spokesman said the deadline was unlikely to be met, even though the three sides were trying "as hard as they can". Under the Dayton peace agreement, the parties were obliged to withdraw to barracks some 150,000 soldiers, and to move 800 tanks and other weaponry to storage sites previously approved by Nato.

Train crash in India kills 60

New Delhi — A passenger train rammed into a stopped freight train in central India, killing at least 60 passengers, the Press Trust of India reported. The passenger train was travelling from Gorakhpur, on the Indian border with Nepal, to Gonda in the central state of Madhya Pradesh when it collided with the freight train at Domingarh railroad station.

Freed son vows to defend dictator father

Tirana - Ilir Hoxha, 47, eldest son of the late Communist dictator of Albania, Enver Hoxha, completed a one-year jail term for inciting batted but said that prison had not made him repent. Sentenced for publicly denouncing the leaders of the ruling Democratic Party and the people who toppled the old regime, he vowed to continue defending his father.

Return

Malaysia returns boat people to Vietnam

Knala Lumpur — Malaysia took 317 Vietnamese illegal immigrants on buses under heavy police escort to a navy base on the east coast, where they will return to Vietnam the same way they left - by boat. Among the boat people are children born in Malaysia who are going to Vietnam for the first time. The immigrants are the first to be returned from Malaysia under the United Nations Orderly Departure Programme - forcible repatriation for immigrants who refuse to go back voluntarily.

Cambodia renews efforts over hostages

Phnom Penh — Cambodia may need help from Thailand to free a British mine remover and his Cambodian interpreter who were kidnapped by radical Marxist guerillas, a government official said Thursday. Christopher Howes, 36, of Bristol and Cambodian Houn Hourth, 30, were abducted by Khmer Rouge guerillas near the 11th century temples of Angkor Wat in northwestern Cambodia on 26 March. They had been working with the British-based Mines Advisory Group, a demining organisation. AP

France says 'Non' to gay weddings

Paris - France has turned down a request from Sweden to ailow homosexual couples take romantic trips to Paris to be wed in the Swedish consulate there, the Swedish embassy said. Sweden, which has allowed gay couples to be wed in a ceremony similar to a civil marriage since January 1995, asked France to let it stage the weddings in its Paris consulate, where about six heterosexuai couples are married every month.

New York - An autographed photo of former United States Pres-

Denis Sargan was one of the College. Cambridge, where he world's leading econometric theorists, playing a central role in establishing the technical basis for modern "time-series" econometrics. In a distinguished career spanning more than 40 years as a teacher, researcher and practitioner of econometrics. Sargan transformed both the role of econometrics in macroeconomic modelling and the teaching of econometrics. He was Professor of Econometrics at the London School of Economics for over 20 years. eventually becoming the Tooke Professor of Economics and Statistics, and the dominant influence on British econometrics

throughout that period. Sargan was born in Barnsley, Yorkshire. His early ability at mathematics won him a place at Doncaster Grammar School and gained him a State Schol-arship for entrance to St John's

pursued the Mathematical Tripos, becoming a Senior Wrangler. He joined the Scientific Branch of the Civil Service during the Second World War. but, on a visit to a bookshop towards the end of the war, he came across John Maynard Keynes's General Theory of Emplayment, Interest and Money (1936). He was so struck with Keynes's ideas for tackling mass unemployment that he took up economics on returning to Cambridge after the war, and completed a degree in Economics in one year.

His career began as a Lec-turer in Economics at Leeds University, where he com-menced research into the distribution of wealth, duopoly. production, and growth, and statistical time-series problems (comparing several series of data over a period of time). During a visit to the Universi-ties of Minnesota and Chicago, his interests focused on the econometric theory of estimating economic models from time-series data, and he rapidly established a reputation for insightful, rigorous and powerful analyses. This research was published in Econometrica, the prestigious journal of the Econometric Society, and he was elected to a Fellowship of the Econometric Society in 1963. He came to the London School of Economics in 1964 as a Reader in Statistics, joining A.W.H. (Bill) Phillips (of the Phillips machine and Phillips curve) and Jim Durbin; a Professorship in the Econom-

His appointment took the LSE group to the technical forefront in research. Perhaps as importantly, he helped attract

ics Department followed in

a vibrant group of young faculty and many able students to the redesigned MSc in Econometrics. This achieved new heights of advanced teaching, and Denis Sargan can be credited with the creation of a generation of econometricians trained to highly technical levels in all aspects of quantitative economics, adopting what is loosely called the "LSE approach to econometric modelling".

His teaching would not please the current vogue for as-sessing "quality": from a few notes, the most arcane mathematics would flow with inadvertent changes of notation, and key steps treated as obvi-ous. The effect was to force his students to rework the material completely - from which ensued understanding and technical expertise that would last a lifetime. He is remembered with awe as well as affection for

suggested after a few moments' thought on a problem that a student or colleague had struggled with for several weeks. Often he just pulled open a desk drawer and handed out his unpublished earlier analysis of the problem at hand. His modesty camouflaged a brilliant and creative mind, whose greatest difficulty was to comprehend how little most of us really

By 1984, when he took early retirement, he had supervised more than 30 successful doctorates. His past students currently occupy Chairs at a host of the world's distinguished universities, including LSE, Oxford, Yale, Madrid, the European University Institute in Florence, and Athens.

His empirical research complemented and motivated much of his theoretical work. His pa-

the penetrating solutions he per for the Colston Society conference at Bristol University in 1963, published in its proceedings in 1964, initiated the modern approach to time-series econometric modelling. Sargan can be credited with

the conceptual foundations of that approach, the introduction of what has since become the dominant model form, and the technical solution of several of the key specification problems. The analytical apparatus was applied to the intractable problem of 1960s wage-price inflation, and Sagan highlighted the role of real-wage resistance in wage bargains that was to prove a stumbling block for incomes policies. In workshops, he and Bill Phillips would debate the relative merits of that model versus the Phillips curve, and both questioned the existence of any "trade-off" between inflation and memployment.



Sargan: the 'LSE approach'

Election as President of the Econometric Society came in time for its 1980 World Congress at Aix-en-Provence. Sargan was made a Fellow of the British Academy in 1981, and an

honorary foreign member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1987.

He and his wife Mary Millard, whom he married in 1953, entertained most hospitably at their home, fostering a friendly atmosphere at the School, Hewas a keen gardener, and talked as freely about his hobby while at the LSE as he did about econometries.

David F. Hendry

John Denis Sargan, economist: born Barnsley. Yorkshire 23 August 1924; Assistant Lecturer, Lecturer and Reader, Leeds University 1948-63, Reader 1963-64; Professor of Econometrics, London School of Economics 1964-84, Tooke Professor of Economic Science and Statistics 1982-84 (Emerius); FBA 1981; married 1953 Mary Millard (two sons, one daughter): died Theydon Bois. Essex 13 April 1996.

Gunther Wallenda

Gunther Wallenda was one of the few male members of his world-tenowned circus family, the Great Wallendas, to die a natural death in old age. He was 68 and died from a heart attack. His uncle Willi was the first

to die, killed while performing his highwire act in Gothen-burg, Sweden, when his bicycle was blown off the highwire as he performed a solo act at an outdoors winter date. Willi had previously worked with the Bertram Mills Circus in Britain for three years in the early 1930s. In a terrible and horrifying accident in Detroit at a Shrine Circus on 30 January 1962, two members of the Wallenda troupe, Dieter Shepp and Richard Faughnan, were killed, and Mario, the adopted son of Gunther's uncle Karl, was paralysed for life. Karl and Gunther's father Herman managed to cling on to the wire as they fell, saving the fall of the girl in the act, Jane Shepp, while miraculously one member of the act, Gunther Wallenda, then aged 34, retained his balance and remained standing on the wire amid the falling

Another Wallenda, Yetty, succumbed to a spectacular fall from a 50ft-high swaypole in Omaha, Nebraska. And Karl Wallenda, the obsessive leader of the troupe for many years, continued working alone, gaining international fame from his spectacular walk across a wire in 1970, appearing at the 1977 Circus World Championships in London despite breaking his neck only weeks before whilst making a television film based on his life in Florida. When asked how long he intended to

go on working, he shrugged: "As long as the good Lord lets me." He met his Maker, probably in the way he would have wished to, falling from a height of 120 feet, swept off the wire by wind while trying to walk a 300ft gap between two hotels in San Juan, on 22 March 1978, a tragedy which gained frontpage coverage in every newspaper of the world. He was

undoubtedly the single most famous highwire exponent since the gabled Blondin who crossed Niagara Falls on a highwire.

Karl's brother Herman, Gunther's father, acceded to his wife's plans and retired from the dangerous profession in 1969 when he was just 62, dying peacefully in 1985, aged 83. He had partnered his brother for over 40 years.

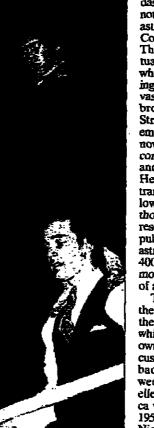
During the phenomenal career of the Great Wallendas, they received rave reviews around the world, and their triumphs and disasters were reported in nearly every languag.
Karl Wallenda is regarded as the
greatest innovator of highwire
routines in the almost 230-year history of the modern circus.

Originally from Germany, where at one time they had their own circus, three generations of Wallendas had travelled Europe with their acts before Karl, Herman and Willi ventured to Cuba for a 12-week engagement, leaving Herman's wife Lucile and the infant Gunther in Germany. In Havana, America's leading circus magnate John Ringling spotted the fam-ily, booking it immediately for The Greatest Show on Earth".

Opening in New York in March 1928, they proved a sensational success, and apart from a winter season in London with Bertram Mills Circus in 1930-31 and a summer season at the Blackpool Tower Circus in 1939 (from which, as war broke out, they were associated with the Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus until the end of

Billboard, the US show-busi-

ness "bible", described the Wallendas' number as "beyond the faintest doubt, the greatest, most thrilling act." While in Eu-rope with Mills and at Blackpool, they also fitten in engagements at the famous Cirque d'Hiver in Paris, and in 1933, during a Christmas lay-off from Ringling, appeared before the German Chancellor, Adolf Hitler, at the exquisite Wintergarten Theater in Berlin, followed by appearances in



balanced on his uncle Kart's shoulders, at Olympia, 1931 Photograph: Hulton Getty

tal Palast theatre. Thanks also to the annual winter break of Ringling, the troupe was able to return to Mills in London for the 1935-36 season, working as "The Five Carlos". By this time, Gunther had already been initiated into the aerial exploits of the family; he had taken his first tenuous steps on the highwire

at the age of five. When the Nazis began their offensives in the late summer of 1939, the Wallendas had wisely left Britain and returned to America, shortly after becoming American citizens. While working for Ringling-Barnum in the ensuing years, the Wallen-

das were embroiled in a tragedy not of their own making, the dis-astrous circus fire in Hartford. Connecticut, on 6 July 1944. The Great Wallendas were actually midway through their act when flames were spotted licking up the sidewalls and the canvas of the Big Top. As the band broke into "The Stars and Stripes Forever" to signal an emergency, the troupe, which by now numbered Gunther in its content, made a hasty descent, and none was injured save for Helen, Karl's wife, who was trampled in the panic which followed. Gunther was among those who braved the flames to rescue helpless members of the public but at the end of the disastrous day 168 were dead, and 400 seriously maimed, in the most horrendous circus tragedy of all time.

The Great Wallendas left the Ringling show at the end of the 1946 season, and for a short while uncle Karl produced his own circus, the Wallenda Circus; due to lack of business and bad weather, it lasted only weeks. Thereafter, they travelled North and South America with other circuses, and in 1955 survived an earthquake in Nicaragua, which struck at the moment that Gunther Wallenda placed his bike on the wire to cycle across. In 1961 they were with the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros Circus, the world's largest tented show, where on 24 May that year, Monaco's Prince Grace, marvelled at the Wallendas' performance.

Since as early as 1938, Karl Wallenda had been dreaming of a new trick, the ultimate feat on the high wire, a seven-person pyramid, involving four "understanders". holding two more, in turn supporting the top person, all without a safety net. They perfected an act (and practised but never publicly performed one with eight people) which was, until quite recently, never duplicated by any troupe except the Bob Gerry Troupe at Olympia, London, at the Bertram Mills show in 1952-53, but this group used a safety net.

Tragedy struck the Great Wallendas at the Shrine Circus in Detroit's State Fair Coliseum on 30 January 1962, when the pyramid faltered and fell, killing two and miming a third member of the act, and injuring three more. Only Gunther Wallenda remained unharmed, still standing on the wire with his long balance-pole, and able to assist in the rescue of the three troupe members clinging precariously to the wire. Gunther displayed his courage and sang-froid the very next day, performing in an improvised act with his father and Gene Mendez, high above the spot where his fellow troupe members had died.

The Great Wallendas continued, in true "show must go on" traditions, minus their dead companions. A re-enactment of the "seven pyramid" trick was mooted for a television documentary by NBC, and for an appearance in Forth Worth, Texas. But on 5 November 1969, while rebearsing at their winter quarters in Sarasota, Florida, the wire slipped while anchored to a tree, the troupe falling some 12 feet. None was seriously injured but Gunther received gashes to his head and chin, and lost all his front teeth. There was rumoured dissension among the Wallenda family and Gunther, who had receptly remarried (his first wife, the Mexican Margarita Caudillo, having died from injuries incurred in 1959 during her own aerial act), quit

He astonished his fellow artistes and the Wallenda family by then taking a high-school degree, going to the University of South Florida and becoming a geography and history teacher in Sarasota. But he continued to train other highwire walkers, and for some years was on the training staff of the Sarasota Sailor Circus. teaching his long-acquired skills to budding professional and amateur wire-walkers.

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Gunther Wallenda, highwire artiste: born 1927; died Sarasota, Florida 16 March 1996.

François-Régis Bastide

François-Régis Bastide was one several appointments with culof the last, and best, of what was once a common phenomenon - the man of letters who served his country well both as a diplomat and as an artist.

Bastide attended schools in Bayonne, in southern France. where he was given the usual thorough grounding (in those days) in philosophy, the Classics and modern languages. He was also a talented amateur musician who had taught himself to play the organ in his doctor father's Biarritz mansion, and then went on to become an accomplished planist.

In October 1944 he joined General Leclerc's divisions in Germany, where he won the Croix de Guerre and developed a deep appreciation of all things German - music, literature, language. In politics, he was a militant socialist, and at the end of the Second World took up

tural as well as political bearings: secretary-general of the Centre Culturel de Royaumont (1947) and pensionnaire of the Maison Descartes in Amsterdam (1950).

ths earlier, killing two members of the act; Gunther alone was left standing on the wire

earing in public, at Fort Worth, Texas, in 1963 for the first time since they fell 22

In 1953, Bastide became literary adviser to Seuil, a prominent publishing house that was to issue several of his books, and for whom he later took charge of an excellent musical series called "Solfeges". He began his literary career with three fine novels, Lettre de Bavière (1947), La Troisième personne (1948) and La Jeune fille et la mon (1952). Saint-Simon, his biographical study of the great 17th-century memoirist, won the Grand Prix de la Critique in 1953. All are still selling in paperback. He was also one of the inspired producers and animawurs in the early days of the

fusion et Télévision Française) from 1949, working on dramatic and literary programmes and a famous discussion series Le Masque et la Plume on both radio and television. He was to become President of the trade union Syndicat National CFDT (Conféderation Française Démocratique du Travail) from

1968 to 1976. His experience of drama production at ORIF led to his joining the reading panel for the Comédie Française and the Odéon (1968-75). As a socialist he became a municipal councillor for his home town, Biarritz, in 1977, and the national delegate for the Socialist Party in 1978.

Meanwhile, he was publishing a series of novels and essays from Seuil and Gallimard, of which Les Adieto: won the Prix Fémina in 1956. It was followed by a veiled autobio-

graphical account of his life at ambassador to Denmark (1982the Maison Descartes in Amsterdam, Flora d'Amsterdam (1957), La Vie révée (1962) and Le Troisieme Concerto, awarded the Grand Prix de la Télévision in 1963. This dramatic fantasy is about a concert pianist who has nightmares of having to interpret the (non-existent) third piano concerto of Maurice

His play, whose title is a tribute both to Germany and to Giraudoux, Siegfried 78, was produced in 1978. He wrote the adaptation and dialogues for a memorable television produc-tion of Flaubert's L'Education sentimentale in 1973. He was a member of the jury for the Prix Médicis, where he sat with that other great French Germanist Marthe Robert.

With the triumph of François Mitterrand in the elections of 1982, Bastide was appointed

85), then to Austria (1985-88). Then he became ambassador and permanent delegate to Unesco (1988-90). He was made a Minister Plenipotentiary hors classe in 1991. In the same year, the Académie Française awarded him the Prix Henri de Regnier in recognition of his entire literary output. All these glittering posts and his experiences in them appeared from time to time in his novels, in which he casts a witty, ironical eye upon the social intrigues and hollow splendours of the diplomatic world. Yet he was never world-weary, for he had immense love of life, and his wit was never too scathing, for it was of the kind that the French call spirituel, that is, humour with a gently malicious sparkle.

Bastide's last work, L'Homme au désir d'amour lointain (1994), is set in the

imaginary kingdom of Villanovie in southern Europe. He employs the transparent device of writing about his elderly hero, the French ambassador to the Firbankian court of Queen Ilma Regina, with whom he has an affair, in the third person, yet, giving him his own name, as if in mockery of that literary trick. Bastide is the familiar figure of a man in his sixties who is eager to experience a final amorous adventure. Some of the best passages are classic meditations on old age and the absurd agonies of romantic love. "If you do not understand that love, true love, crazy love makes you want to run away from it all, it means that you are the stupidest of men," the hero tells himself.

There are also loving references to some of Bastide's literary masters - Rilke, Valery Larbaud, Stendhal, all great

travellers, as was the author. In the end, the hero does indeed flee from the love he has awakened: "Romanticism is a thing of the past. All we can hope for in our old age is the comfort of nostalgia."

He implies that only a woman can find the courage to cherish romantic passion. A man finds himself confronted only with his own sexual urgings, and finds nothingness.

François-Régis Bastide was a gentleman of great charm and elegance. His long, witty face, with its touch of melancholy in the drooping eyes, was remi-niscent of Cocteau's. Indeed, whenever they appeared in public together, Cocteau would flatter himself by introducing Bastide as his twin brother "only slightly younger". But Bastide's multifarious genius hid deeper roots than Cocteau's. He lived a passionately



committed life with admirable lightness of touch that concealed a rich humanity.

James Kirkup François-Régis Bastide, writer and diplomat: born Biarritz 1 July 1926; died Paris 16 April 1996.

BIRTHS

CARSLAW: On 17 April, to Nicola (née Hayman) and Michael, a daughter, Anna, a sister for Emilia.

DEATHS

DOWNS: Edith Florence Downs, died 7 April 1996, aged 82. Funeral to be held at 2.30pm on Tuesday 30 April at Beckenham Crematorium.

STUART-SMITH: On 17 April, peacefully at home after a courageous fight, Laurence Merriam, aged 56. Dearly loved husband of Liz. cherished father of Caroline. William and Sara, and a much-loved and respected creamtion. Thanksgiving service at St. Dunstan's Church, Cranbrook, Kent, on Thursday 9 May at 3 pm. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, payable to Heart of Kent Hospice clo J. Perigoe & Son, Bank Street, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3EF, telephone 01580 713636.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births,

Births,

ORTF (Office de la Radiodif-

Marriages & Deaths

Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazethe Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5UL, telephoned to 0.071-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0.071-293 2012) or faxed to 0.071-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

OTHER Gazette announcements (no OTHER Gazete announcement unar-tices, functions. Forthcoming mar-riages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line. VAT extra. They should

The Independent's main switchboard

Marriages

Mr D. C. Fishburn and Mrs R. A. Mallinson The marriage took place on 4 April 1996, in London, between Mr Dale Fishburn and Mrs Rosalind

Mallinson (néc Hoare). Birthdays

Mr William Baillie, President, Royal Scottish Academy, 73; The Most Rev Luigi Barbarito, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, 74; Miss Sue Barker, tennis player, 40; Mr Algy Cluff, chairman and chief executive, Cluff Resources, 56; Mr Tim Curry, actor, 50; Mr Glyn England, former chairman, Wind-cluster Ltd, 75: Sir Cyril English, educationalist, 83: Mr Trevor Francis, footballer, 42: Dr Norman Godman MP, 58; Sir Dens Henry, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 65; Sir John Horlock, Professor of Engineering and Trea-surer, the Royal Society, 68; Mrs Mar-

go MacDonald, broadcaster, 52; Mr Dudley Moore, actor, 61; Mr Garfield Morgan, actor, 65; Mr Hugh O'Brian, actor. 71; Mr Jonathan Owen Jones MP, 42; Mr Murray Perahia, pianist, 49; Mr Alan Price, singer, 54: Sir John Roch, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 62; M Michel Roux, chef de cuisine, 55; Mr Peter Scott QC, 61; Mr Wilf Stevenson, Director, British Film Institute, 49; The Hon Michael Trend MP, 44; Mr John Watts MP, 49; Miss Ruby Wax, actress, writer and television presenter, 43; Mr Andrew

Anniversaries

Births: David Ricardo, economist 1772; Lucien Levy-Bruhl, philoso-pher, 1857; Sydney Francis Barnes, cricketer, 1873; Richard Arthur Warren Hughes, novelist, 1900; Jayne Mansfield (Vera Jayne Palmer), ac-

Lord-Lieutenant for Berishire, 63.

tress, 1933. Deaths: Philipp Melanchthon (Schwarzerd), church reformer, 1560; Paolo Veronese (Cagliari), painter, 1588; George Gordon Noel, Lord Byron, poet, 1824; Sir Robert Smirke, archi 1867; Owen Jones, architect, 1874; Benjamin Disracli, Earl of Beaconstield, statesman and novelist 1881; Charles Robert Darwin, biolugist, 1882; Sir Henry John Newbolt, poet and author, 1938; Konrad Ade-nauer, statesman, 1967; Frankie Howerd (Francis Alex Howard), comedian, 1993. On this day: Sir Fran-Welsh MP, 52; Mr Philip Wroughton, cis Drake sailed into the harbour of Cadiz and sank the Spanish fleet at harbour; this he called "singeing the King of Spain's beard", 1587; Prince Rainier III of Monaco married Grace Kelly, actress, 1956; Bangladesh was admitted to the Commonwealth, 1972. Today is the Feast Day of St Alphege or Elphege of Canterbury. St Expeditus, St Geroldus and St Leo

Lectures

National Gallery: Humphrey Wine, "Innocents Abroad (ii): Claude, Landscape with the Marriage of Isaac and Rebecca", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Michael Keen, "British Landscape

Painting", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Dominic Willsdon. "Merkeau-Ponty's Cézanne", 1pm. British Museum: Anne Farrer, "images from the Western Lake: revival of Chinese colour prints".

Dinners

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Mr Jeremy Hanley MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, hosted a dinner at f ancaster House vesterday evening for the UK-Korea Forum for the

Society of Chemical Industry

The Centenary Medal Award Din-aer of the Society of Chemical Industry was held yesterday evening at the Hotel InterContinental, London W1. Dr A. Hayes, President, presented the Centenary Medal to Dr Robin Paul, chief executive of Albright and Wilson plc.

Franco-British Society Judge David Edward was the guest

speaker at the 52nd Annual General Meeting and Supper of the Franco-British Society held yesterday at the Royal Air Force Club, London W1, Lord Strabolgi, a vice-president of the society, presided. Sir John Fretwell, Chairman, gave the annual report. Professor Douglas Johnson presented the society's 1995 Enid McLeod Literary Prize to Gillian Tin-dall, for Célestine: Voices from a French village.

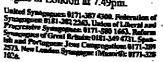
ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

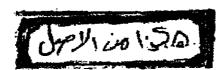
The Date of Edisburgh, Mankal of the Royal Air Force, attends a dinner held to borour those who fought is Bomber Command in 1939-45, at the Officer's Mex. Strike Command, RAF High Wecasthe, Burkinghamshire, The Princess Royal, President, Brutish Knitting and Clothing Expert Council, visit Structedvic Knitwear Limited, Irvino, Ayrshire; and waits Ayr Raccourse and opens a new stand. The Princess Royal Sand.

Changing of the Guards The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at House Goards, Ham: 1st Battalion Weish Gunds no mounts the Queen's Ound, at Backlegham Palace, 11. Num, hand provided by the Collstream Guards.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 7.49pm.





With friends like this.

John Major, you would think, must be well used to such condemnation by now. "With this government the whole is much worse than the sum of the Conservative MPs talking to alienated supporters in their constituencies tell us the most common answer to the question 'What is wrong with this

But this was the Daily Teles graph, the natural home of Toryism and worse was to come. "People have no belief in the men or the measures, no expectation that they will be told the truth, no impression of competence, no faith or hope

The days were already long gone when Private Eye could refer to the paper as the Daily Torygraph. But yesterday's broadside - "to refrain from general criticism and concentrate on the particular is to miss the point" - marked a dramatic new low in the relationship between the Conservative Party and the paper once regarded as its house journal. Disenchantment with the pre-

sent government is nothing new for the Tory press. After years of increasingly strident criticism. most papers finally parted company with Mr Major during last year's contest for the leadership of the party. "No escape route without a new leader," pontificated the Times. "Britain deserves better than continued drift and dither," opined the Daily Mail. "Major could not lead a cinema queue. He is damaged goods, a loser," railed the Sun more demotically.

The words reflected the growing contempt of the three most important Tory press barons -Rupert Murdoch of News International, Lord Rothermere of Associated Newspapers and Conrad Black of the Telegraph group. Two of this group have even begun to flirt publicly with the Labour leader, Tony Blair. Only last week Rothermere announced that one of his papers might go so far as to tell its readers to vote Labour.

But it is the disloyalty of the Telegraph - the voice of the shires and the most influential parer among backbench Tories - that causes most pain in Conservative circles. There, too, the disgrantlement is deepseated. "It is time for Mr Major to go, and give another leader the opportunity to save the Tories," the paper said at the time of the leadership contest.

The editorial was written not by one of the new-right ideologues so favoured by Conrad Black but by the paper's then editor, Max Hastings, an old-school pragmatic Tory for whom decency was more important than economic correctness. "Ceaseless fudge, muddle, compromise and



Pro-Major

Anti Major

Major govern-ment's lack of

Highly critical of

	mur	QO
Sum	Sunday Times	7%.

spoke in South-

east Stafford-

shire...Mr Blai

	Stuart Higgins	j
	4,073,601]
E	Pro-Major	1
	Anti-Major	i
-		

"The real question is: who do the voters trust? A party inflation and mortgages dow or one that claim it can do

John Prescott Margaret Beckett Dobson stands for enterpris

John Witherow 1,314,337 688,205 Pro-Major. Pro-Major.

Anti-Major Anti-Maior. "He badly nee to take a strong lights, he can go his are the lights that the

Phil Hall

4,656,716

Pro-Major

Anti-Maior

John Major ne

all his undoubted

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Impressed Hints ering his promo-tional address that it might sup-(before Japanes tion but worried that old Labour is Blair might have mietly and let THEM lecture

Max Hastings 2,093,713 2.138,465 463,146

Pro-Major

"Only the Prime "Although the Thries remain wa behind in opinion that the Con polis, a surprisir next Election number of MPs -Tony Blair among

Pro-Major

concerned that the sceptics and pell off another "Mr Blair scen to spend most of

another Conser ative victory can-'At least we know where Ms Short is where is Mr Blair retracts policy by his old Labour

Charles Moore Dominic 1.027.882 Pro-Major Pro Major

Mr Major ... Mr Major, although person-ally decent, does not stand for any

Blair has said convinces us that edy our national ills... his current

ring to The Party

Anti Major Anti Major

toward Europe He still says what

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ments about aight find ti in plain English plans to do if he

United/MAI Sue Douglas 1,279,984 1.265,967 Pro-Major Pro-Major Pro-Major Pro-Major

Still respectful and keen to find "Given a good issue to fight on and the "smell of good points "Mr Major is nothing electioneering" is his nostrils, he is by far the best

"His driving ambition is to go down in history as

> Left.... But it is by with Lady Thatcher that his can be exposed."

> > ome of the most more.

Telegraph leader fulminated, "now resembles a dinosaur, having a very small head and a very large body. The head is Euro-enthusiast and the body is Euro-sceptic." An unhappy metaphor, not least because the head, however small, is where the brain resides. More than that, the dinosaurs all died out. It was not that they failed to adapt. Rather the times changed around them.

left the electorate "ignorant of what the Tories believe they hold power for, save to keep

If a one-nation Tory patrician could allow the Tel advocate the disposal of a sitting Conservative prime minister what might happen when the ideologues took over? There was much concern in Major's circles when Charles Moore, then editor of the Sunday Telegraph, was moved to take charge of the daily. "His rabid anti-Europe stuff was tolerable on Sundays," said one Major insider, "but not in the daily. It made it too mainstream.

A month or so after Moore took over he and Conrad Black were invited to Sunday lunch at Chequers - a rare honour for journalists. It was a concerted obfuscation", he argued had attempt to woo the Telegraph

group back into the fold. Among the Tory big guns also wheeled out were the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, the Tory chairman, Brian y, and the right-wing Eurosceptical leader of the Tories in the House of Lords, Viscount Cranborne. A number of other senior *Telegraph* figures were invited, including the new editor of the Sunday, Dominic "son of Nigel" Lawson, the editor of the Speciator, Frank Johnson and the European

ure, Boris Johnson. The happy days of Max Hastings and Douglas Hurd putting the world to rights over lunch at the Travellers might be long gone but ministers thought the Telegraph might return to the fold just as the Mail has (it has been run-

Commissioners' chief hate-fig-

ning strong anti-Labour material for months now). But any hope that Moore,

who was the prototype young fogey in his youth, would turn Conservative in his middle years was forlorn. Among his first

graph camps. "I know that you

think we're a bunch of homo-

sexual fuckwits," said Moore to

the paper's news editor David

Charles Moore had lunch with John Redwood only the day before

moves was to import from the reflection of the hard-right Sunday paper his two favourite views of the Telegraph proprileader writers, Paul Goodman etor, the Canadian media mag-and Dean Godson, whose style nate Conrad Black. This is was vigorous, amusingly arch and very right-wing. The views of the couple (who swiftly came to be irreverently known as Pearl and Dean) opened up a gap between the new and old Tele-

what might have been expected. When Black bought the Jerusalem Post he turned its editorial policy on its head, transforming the line of the leading Israeli paper from a

taxes, including capital taxes. or be forced out into the open and declare its tax-and-spend philosophy" and abandoning the vision of Europe embodied not just in the single currency but in the whole of the Maastricht treaty - were pure Black. Redwood. In the days when

yesterday's leader - "cutting

They were also pure John Redwood was still a Cabinet minister he was invited to hunch at the Telegraph. Perhaps sig-nificantly Max Hastings did not turn up, leaving it to his then deputy Simon Heffer to host. Evidence of the Black attachment to Redwood was also provided by Andrew Neil, the former editor of the Sunday

dove-ish to a hawkish one vir- Times. When Hastings quit tually overnight. The views in unexpectedly, approached

recounted at the time the Cana-Sapsted, a robust hard newsman and spending so that Labour dian's attachment to the politics of the old school, "but we know would either limp behind them of Redwood and Portillo. One of the stumbling blocks between the two men was Neil's insistence that, in the view of the general public, both are unelectable. Conspiracy theorists will therefore draw nourishment

from the fact that Charles Moore - who supported John Redwood in the leadership contest - had lunch with the former Cabinet malcontent on Tuesday - the day before the blistering editorial was written. "But the idea is not to suggest that Major should be dumped," said one Telegraph insider yesterday. We just want to put some lead in his pencil."

Mainstream Tories are furious. "What's important about this trumpeting clique," said one yesterday. "The Telegraph is owned by a foreigner who may be bright but who has little understanding of British culture. It is edited by an old Etonian who's probably never been in a comprehensive in his life. And it is written by a ournalism which would ever have got them out on the streets and in contact with real life. The answer to Blair's radical centrism is not to lurch to the right like this. If these people have a hand in shaping a post-defeat Tory party they will lead it into fantasy land."

It will, of course, be more complicated than that. Newspapers influence not through their leader columns - few people actually read them, market researchers say. But they do shape readers' view of the world by choosing material carefully crafted to amuse and titillate readers and underpin their preiudices. Thus the politics of the Sun rests in its world view circumscribed by fear, greed and sex; those of the Muil lie in its preoccupation with taxation, house prices and family values and public morals. The real question is: can the Telegraph translate its Europhobia from its opinion column to its news and features pages? And this is where it runs up

against the paradox that paralyses the heart of modern Conservatism. The days of Thatcherite simplism are over. There is a contradiction in the Conservative economic and cultural world views. Economically Tories must be in favour of the new global capitalism. But its ruthless modernising of the economy - with its downsizing and contract culture - has now hit the middle classes as much as spasms in manufacturing once hurt the working classes. In a globalised economy we are all working-class. If key conservative cultural values are to be maintained then compromises may have to be made in subsuming our Britishness into a European-ness that can effects of unfettered competition from the Pacific Rim. In all this there can be no plain-aspikestaff Tory slogans any

The Conservative Party, the

DIARY J

Licensed to thrill in the Lords

The name's Howe, Geoffrey Howe. One glint of his glasses and women faint. Taunt him with the jibe of being savaged by a dead sheep and he will throw his dry sherry, shaken not stirred, in your face. Lord Howe is the one, the only, holder of the passport numbered

Douglas Hurd, the former foreign secretary, has, as I reported some time ago, nabbed the chief



prize of passport number 001. But Lord Howe's is probably the one that all Cabinet ministers secretly except one, that is. The

007 films may have embraced a female M. But could the numbers 007 have accompanied the picture of a female prime minister? It seems not. At the launch of a report on opening our doors to EU travellers yesterday. Lord Howe dis-closed that his 007 number had been offered first to the then prime minister,

Margaret Thatcher, who declined. Probably very wisely. By now the much travelled Lady T would have heard the same joke from every immigration officer. Mind you, whether the non cinema-going non fiction-reading former prime minister would have known who James Bond was is another matter.

A breathtaking **€chedule**.

Bill Houghton, principal trumpet for the BBC Symphony Orchestra, is expending considerable stocks of the proverbial puff this week. He is playing in Germany on Friday night, flies home on Saturday and runs in the London Marathon on Sunday. As soon as the

race finishes, he flies back to rejoin the German tour to use whatever puff he ness Age magazine - and as such earned has left in the final concert that same

Follow the fat cats –

and watch the fur fly Fighting talk from the new Sunday business newspaper, entitled - with great perspicacity - the Sunday Business.

Pre-launch, staff gathered in the founder Tom Rubython's Marylebone flat for a rousing pep talk before next Sunday's launch. Rubythou, you will

ness Age magazine - and as such earned a certain notoriety for the staggering regularity of his appearances in the libel courts. The magazine reportedly had to put aside £6,000 a week just to cover its editor's somewhat daring interpretations of defamation laws.

Undaunted by this trail of litigious encounters, Rubython introduced the The judges of the assembled staff to his "hot shot" lawyer. "Any doubts about a story, folks - this is your man!" he assured them. And to prove it, he put his money where his mouth is: a cool £5,000 for the first Sunday Business journalist to "nail a fat

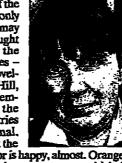


The fit stoping Height journalists. Like and the fit stoping Height journalists. Like and the fit stoping Height journalists. Like and the fit stoping and the fit stoping at the delight of the delight of the fit stoping at the fit stoping at the fit stoping at the fit stoping at the fit stoping fit stoping fit stoping for the stoping fit stoping for the stoping at the stoping fit stoping for the stoping at the stoping for the stoping at the stoping fit stoping for the stoping fit stoping for the stoping fit stoping for the stoping fit st

It is hard to say who will be more worried by the challenge - Britain's fat cats, or the Sunday Business lawyer.

Orange controversy could prove fruitful

new women-only fiction prize may not have thought much of the overall entries judge and novelist Susan Hill, you will remember, said the quality of entries "abysmal. terrible". But the



prize's sponsor is happy, almost. Orange the mobile phone company, which is sponsoring the £30,000 prize, confirmed to me that the agreement is "potentially" a three-year sponsorship but there is a clause for a revaluation a month after the prize is awarded. That sounds like a

But there is a silver lining. Orange's head of public relations, Mark Humphrey, added: "It is looking very encouraging. The Booker Prize has written congratulating us on the amount of coverage; we've had more than they get in 10 years."

HM Customs, simply the best

I receive a note headed "Important Message" from those considerate chaos at HM Customs and Excise. Ever helpful, they are simplifying the VAT regulations. The message reads: "As a deregulatory measure, the implementation of the Second VAT Simplification Direc-tive has changed the definition for the treatment of processing work from goods to services.

If only all of life were so simple. Eagle Eye

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Israel must call off the killing

Whatever reasons Israel may have had for its week-old onslaught on southern Lebanon, the massacre at Qana yesterday demands, on both moral and political grounds, that the ill-fated cam-paign be called off. To shell a UN peacekeeping base crowded with civilian refugees, killing dozens of people, defies both explanation and excuse. The shelling of Qana was a gross strategic and his-torical error; Israel can only be diminished by such an act of futile bloodshed.

One has to believe that the refugees.

sheltering under the UN flag, were not shelled deliberately. According to one account, a Hizboliah Katyusha rocket battery was hidden nearby. Yet it is impossible to accept that this was an unfortunate mischance of war, still less that the Lebanese people have brought this punishment upon themselves for harbouring Hizbollah. Whatever the final explanation for the disaster at Qana, it flowed inexorably from the disproportionate nature of Israel's onslaught on southern Lebanon.

This has not been a scientific military campaign, pin-pointing Hizbollah rocket launchers. By the Israeli government's admission its aim has been political, to cocree the Lebanese and Syrian governments into doing something about Hizbollah's attacks on settlements in northern Israel. The instrument of that coercion is, by implication, the threat to the civilian population of southern Lebanon, who were to be forced from their homes. It was always likely then that at some stage there would be large civilian casualties. The Israeli forces, joyfully released from defending against Hamas suicide bombers - a frustratingly invisible enemy - have shown all too scant concern for the safety of Arab civilians. In that context. Qana was a tragic blunder just waiting to happen.

Hizbollah is equally callous of civilian

There is no question of Israel's right to defend itself. That flows from its right to exist. It is quite proper for it to protect those settlements in the north which have been besieged by rocket attacks. Yet the assault on southern Lebanon is quite disproportionate.

It is not primarily a military campaign; it is a political campaign and a vicarious one at that. Hamas is a far more insidious and dangerous enemy than Hizbollah; Israel cannot easily strike at Hamas, so it strikes where it can. The central motive is to bolster the electoral chances next month of the Prime Minister, Shimon Peres. A further motive is to convince the Syrian government that it should join more enthusiastically in the Middle East peace

Mr Peres believes his re-election is indispensable to the peace process. He may be right. The assault on Lebanon is, in that sense, arguably a war to further the peace. But this is a tortured argument. The reality is that the fragile fabric of Lebanon is being torn apart, creating greater instability in the region, and Israel's Arab friends and partners have been put on the defensive. In the Middle East, blood can only beget further blood. Witness, already, the murder of Greek tourists in Egypt vesterday by Islamist gunmen, apparently seeking revenge for the initial Israeli assault.

President Bill Clinton, a virtual by-

stander until now, has been jolted by yesterday's massacre. He is to send a senior official to the Middle East. This is not enough. He should immediately dispatch his Secretary of State. Warren Christopher, to apply as much pressure as necessary to both Israel and Syria to achieve a ccasefire. Mr Clinton has electoral constraints of his own. But his campaign will not be served by a collapse of the Middle East peace process. He must now intervene, forcefully and personally, life. It is, without doubt, a dangerous and to save Mr Peres from the consequences unscrupulous enemy of the state of Israel. of his own disastrous and bloody logic.

Tory tonic is poison

O the newspaper that brought us fan-costed, so Tory tax cuts need to be spend-Itasy football has turned its attention to ing-costed. But as so often, the suggestion fantasy politics. Yesterday the Daily Telegraph finally exploded with rage and frustration at the failures of John Major's government, dismissing it as an unqualified disaster and calling for a crusade against Brussels, combined with "bold" tax and spending cuts. It accused ministers of lying about Europe and demanded that they accept that membership of a European currency would be an "act of national betrayal". It is not hard to see whose programme the paper has signed up to: its outraged rhetoric was strongly flavoured by the politics of John Redwood. The once-loyal "Torygraph" has joined the dis-

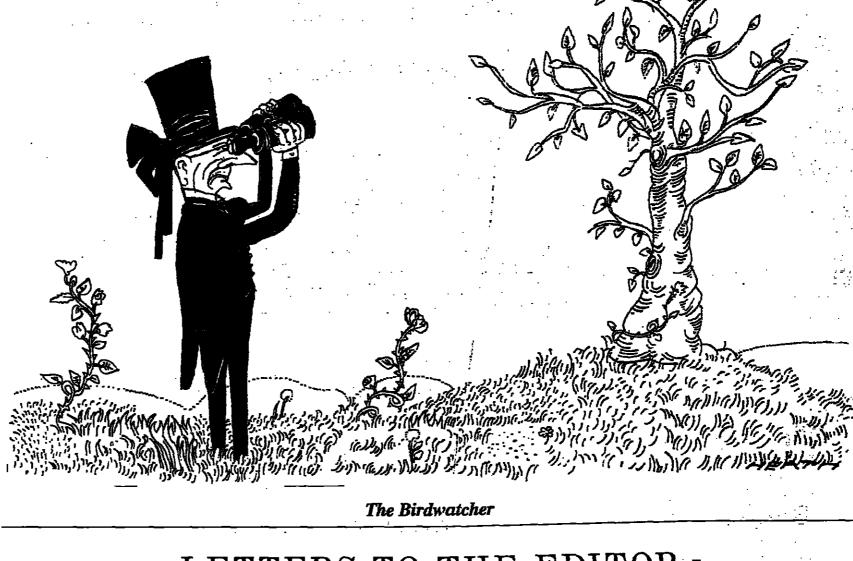
Things have come to a pretty pass when the Independent is obliged to defend a Conservative prime minister against the Daily Telegraph. We have never been ardent admirers of Mr Major: in criticising his style of leadership our Tory neighbours at Canary Wharf are following a line of argument developed here for several years. But he is the only credible Tory leader until the election, and his strategy of slogging on is vastly more sensible than the wheeze for a Tory revival presented to readers of the Telegraph. Its editors have prided themselves on their stolid,

tweedy calm. They seem to be panicking. Their bold tax cuts are all very well: but to promise tax-cutting is hot air unless you specify how you will cut spending. Just as Labour spending plans need to be tax- such little judgement.

for tax-cutting is chucked into the final paragraph of a hand-wringing article for rhetorical effect. Norman Lamont has suggested cutting means-tested benefits and introducing charges for health care. If the Tory right wants to go into the next election offering "clear blue water" in the form of tax cuts, let them describe similar measures. Thus far, they dare not.

On the European Union, the Telegraph. like the Tory dissenters, comes very close to advocating withdrawal. There is an economic case for a looser relationship with the EU. But for Major to move that way now, beginning by ruling out forever British membership of the single currency - no matter how well it was working for the states within it - would destroy this government almost immediately. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, would

certainly resign, followed by other ministers. A phalanx of infuriated Conservative backbenchers from the pro-European wing of the party would refuse to support Major in a confidence vote in these circumstances. Thus the programme offered by the Daily Telegraph as the Tory tonic would prove an almost instant political poison for the Tory administration. It might well be good for the country; but only if you think that what the country needs is Tony Blair as Prime Minister as soon as possible. We can only commiserate with Mr Major that his friends show



- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

How Lebanon fell victim to its own liberal democracy

Sir: Your letters today (18 April) move me, as a resident of Beirut in happier times, to offer a response, in particular to Professor Waterman of Haifa, who correctly sees the statehood and sovereignty of Lebanon as the

What the Lebanese had preserved up to the 1970s was a prosperous self-regulating liberal democracy with a precariously representative parliamentary structure. This was widely regarded - notably by American businessmen - as living proof of what could be achieved by an enterprising people subjected to a minimal burden of government.

Unfortunately, Syria never recognised its independence, never agreed to an exchange of ambassadors, even though both countries became, as sovereign states, members of the United Nations on the same day. As for control over territory. I need not recapitulate the process by which such control was eroded, from the value of Lebanon as a pro-West- a de mocracy, maintains the statime when Nasser sought to draw ern bulwark has been revealed tus quo in a disgustingly violent Lebanon as well as Syria into the once again by its present treat-region and deflects the often vio-

United Arab Republic. The country became the victim of its laudably open mental and physical borders, the corollary of its antidictatorial system of government. But Israel must make up its

mind what it wants on its northern borders. A permanent extension of the most obdurately hostile of the dictatorships mentioned by Daniel A Shine (Letters, 18 April) or a truly independent Lebanon devoted to its traditional art of minding its own profitable business? It is, of course, too late to hope for the friendly neighbour that Lebanon might have become if its recognition of possessing shared interests with Israel had not been squandered by countless demonstrations that Israel regards Lebanese lives and

interests as inferior in value. The US must also look into its heart and its history. America has Its prolonged blindness to the

partner" worthy of courtesy. Washington's message continues to be: put me through to your strong man - if you haven't got one, don't waste my time. Can the British government possibly

endorse this; attitude? The only, absurdly tiny gleam of hope I see here is that fewer English-speakers refer nowadays "the" Lebanon (reflecting a quirk of French grammar) as if it were a mere geographical region like "the" Weald or "the Dordogne. Lebanon is just Lebanon in the standard English Bible, but then Israel is just Israel and the BERNARD NOBLE

Former Deputy-Registrar

Israe:l is strong. It is Israel that is

ment of Syria as the only "peace lent anger and hatred of the Islamic fundamentalists away from us in the West. Does Hizboilah, or any Arab

country for that matter, warn civilians to vacate areas prior to launching an attack? Israel actually placed a very high priority on protecting innocent civilians at the expense of forewarning Hizbollah and, by definition, increasing the dangers to their own soldiers.

RICHARD COLLIS Borehamwood, Hertfordshire

Sir: The arrogance of Paul Miller (letter, 17 March) is typical of what we Arabs have to live with. He reminds us that "the Arab International Court of Israeli wars of 1948, 1956, 1967 Justice and 1973 have already demon-The Hague. Netherlands strated the consequence of waging war with Israel. He implies been significantly engaged in Sir. It is in the interests of us all, that we Arabs have no chance no Lebanon for well over a century. and this includes the Arabs, that matterbow hard we try and we what mighty Israel decides for us. WILLIAM NASR

Badby, Northamptonshire

It is particularly important to be

clear about these constitutional

fundamentals when the govern-

ment of the day evinces scant

regard for the law. The Major

administration's attitude towards

UK research in danger

Sir. The crisis in Britain's universíties has much more severe effects than Judith Judd's report "Cash shortages threaten status of universities" (15 April) suggests.

The National Academics Policy Advisory Group's report on the research capacity of the university system is unequivocal: public funding of university research in Britain is not internationally competitive and is inadequate to meet the demands made upon it.

British government support for academic research is about half that in countries like Germany, France, Holland, the US. and 25 per cent behind Italy (in terms of spending per capita). The inevitable consequence, say the academics, is a severe reduction in university research - to ensure that what remains is properly funded to maintain high quality and support acceptable career conditions for researchers.

Contraction and further narrowing of the research base spells withdrawal from contributions to the advance of knowledge, and decline in the national capacity to create wealth and to ensure quality of life in the future.

Dr John Mulvey **Executive Secretary** Save British Science Society

Three decades of ban on drugs

Sir: I cannot resist reminding your readers that in 1966 doctors in Ipswich adopted a voluntary ban on the prescribing of amphetamines and succeeded in eliminating them completely from the environment. Doctors no longer prescribe them and chemists no longer stock them. This pattern was endorsed at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association in 1968, and it is interesting to see that, 28 years later [with the Government's proposed ban on amphetamine-style slimming pills], things have gone full circle (report, 9 April).

Dr.Frank Wells Director Department of Medicine The Association of the British Pharmaceutical London SW1

Top table manners

Sir: Is England the only country where you can immediately tell a person's class origins (reports. 18 April) by the way they hold their knife and fork? The clenched fists of the worker, presumably to cut impossibly tough cheap meat. The delicacy of the lower middle class, knife and fork as quill pens lightly to cut through ham salad Sunday teas. The confident firm handling of the middle classes, able to cope with any number of Islington restaurant styles. What of the aristocracy? Because of the class system I have been unable to test my theory at this level.

ANDREW POWER London N17

Royal brides

Sir: Princes should marry princesses - young ladies who know the job; know how to behave; know when to keep a discreet silence. Any marriage agency will produce a list of suit-

London W5

Nato troops co-operate in Bosnia | Judges guard our freedoms

Sir. Christopher Bellamy's article ing political co-operation between on Nato in Bosnia (16 April) condifferent groups. The goals and fuses the military and the civilian components of the peace process. There is bound to be a debate about the prospects for security in Bosnia when the Nato troops mandate runs out at the end of the year. The outlook will inevitably depend to a great extent on whether a stable political envi-ronment has been created following the elections due to be held in late summer or early autumn. The civilian side of implement-

ing the Dayton peace agreement, for which Carl Bildt is responsible, is indeed more disparate than the military side, as Dr Bellamy observes. It involves subjects which range from co-ordinating economic reconstruction and human rights activities to reinforcing the independent media and promot-

the deadlines are necessarily less precise and quantifiable than those for military implementation. Re-creating civil society out of the bitter aftermath of war is bound to be a more complex and long-term task than disengaging the armies – difficult as that is. It is therefore misleading to suggest that the civilian and the military arms of the operation are somehow in conflict or in competition. We have an outstandingly good partnership with 1-For on the ground. Our tasks are different and complementary and will continue to be so - whatever happens

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

at the turn of the year. MICHAEL MACLEY Office of the High Representative

The ballad of the little white van

As regular readers will know, I am amassing a collection of modern folk ballads all about life on the motorways of Britain. Here's a rather nice ballad told me by a driver I met recently in the non-smoking area of the Granary Kitchen at the Newport Pagnell Service Area.

As I go down the motorway To Weston-super-Mare Or Cardiff, or to Swansea, Or Bath, or anywhere,

I sometimes get the feeling As down the road I roar That everything that 's happening Has happened to me before.

It doesn't really matter If it's M4 or M2 I always get this feeling Of definite déjà vu,

A strange, disturbing feeling, Impossible to explain, That things which once have happened

Are happening again. It's not the motorway scenery



MILES KINGTON

Which always seems the same, It's not the signs or bridge design Or the countryside I blame

- Oh no! I point the finger At a rat-faced little man Who sits upright at the steering wheel Of an off-white little van.

I first overtook that vehicle Nearly an hour ago And then he overtook me Though I wasn't going slow

And then I overtook him And then he came past me And now we pass each other Fairly regularly.

Every time I waken From my motorway reverie If I'm not overtaking him He's overtaking me.

I seem to go no faster Or slower, come to that, So how on earth does he pass me, The dirty little rat?

I leave him well behind, And then five minutes later What do you think I find?

Every time I pass him

A scruffy little vehicle With muddy marks and dents Overtaking my limo! It simply doesn't make sense ...

I never see him look at me And he never catches my eye, But we know each other well by DOW

As we pass each other by.

I've seen that man in his little van On the road to Avonmouth And I've also seen him going past

On the M2, heading south. I've seen him coming on at Leeds And off on the Reading road,

And I fancy once I saw him,

Near Plymouth, being towed,

I've seen him in the Midlands Going towards Liverpool
And I've passed him up in Scotland Heading for Ultima Thule.

Oh, life is like a roulette wheel. And what goes round, comes And the thing that comes most often

Is a van with a bit of sack Tying together the handles On the door which no longer works And I know I've seen that van

And it's starting to drive me crazy Seeing that little white van Creeping up in my mirror

Going as fast as he can,

Elsewhere, in other circs.

before

And my only consolation In my haunted misery Is that if I'm sick of him, He must hate the sight of me!

Six: Baiting judges about their social and educational backgovernment ministers just as they bind everyone else.

grounds is diverting sport (though hardly more challenging than shooting fish in a barrel) but David Walker ("Who do these guys think they are?", 17 April) is wide of the mark in targeting judicial activism as a threat to democracy. "Political" decisions by the

courts are nothing new. As part of the "checks and balances" in our division of state power, udges are not only permitted but positively bound to make polifi-cal decisions. When judges intervene in the activities of govern-ment to ensure that ministers do not exceed the powers entrusted to them by Parliament they act as the servants, not the usurpers, of democracy. Parliament is the elected representative of the people and the laws its makes bind

legality lurches from cynical opportunism (when foreigners won't buy our beef) to outright contempt (in the face of censure from the European Court of Human Rights). There is no written constitutional guarantee of fundamental human rights in the United Kingdom. The only thing that stands between the individual and oppression in the name of crude majoritarianism

is the law, as applied and developed by the judges. PAUL ROBERTS Department of Law University of Nottingham

Halting the Railtrack scam

Party's abject refusal to give any sort of firm commitment to reacquire Railtrack, the privatisation process could be halted. The Liberal Democrats set out

Sir: Were it not for the Labour

how we would do it some time ago, and have been calling on Labour to join us. Had they done so, this disastrous scam would not have got as far as it has. Your commentary ("Rail sell-

off gives the wrong signals", 15 April) provided even more damning evidence - by selling Railtrack for a fraction of its real value, writing off billions of pounds of debts, and promising huge bonus divi-dends to shareholders the Government is screwing the taxpayer. The ironic thing is that once in the private sector, the railways will cost the taxpayer more than at present - an extra £700m a year.

Tainted' money

DAVID CHIDGEY, MP

(Eastleigh, Lib Dem)

House of Commons

Sir I take it that those who abhor the use of money tainted by slavery for the endowment of a chair at Oxford ("Bailliol loses its 'tainted': cash", 16 April) have never darkened the doors of the Tate Gallery. Perhaps they should picket the Cézanne exhibition. SHEILA LEE London NW1

Roads to a life of horrible isolation

Sir. You quote the British Roads

Federation ("End of the traffic jam is nigh". 15 April) as fearing a "horrible, cold, isolationist future" when teleworking reduces traffic. Their success in hijacking transport policy towards the car has meant paths, lanes and villages severed by dangerous roads, children who have to be escorted to school through the deadly streets and daily traffic jams of influenced daily traffic jams of infuriated motorists whose only social interaction seems to be the exchange of insults. If only there were a decent public transport option for those people, if only they could walk or cycle safely.

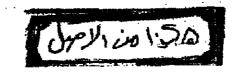
Nothing could be worse than the horrible isolationist present to which the BRF's lobbying has brought us. My own hope is that a combination of technology and sensible values can deliver a future where the blight of the car has been lifted.

PHILIP INSALL

Sir: Having read the fears of correspondents about motorists using B-roads (Letters, 15 April), I am bound to say, knowing the Lake District. Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors very well, that the people most likely to be found speeding in those areas will be locals. Not infrequently I find them on the wrong side of the road.

NORMAN WEBB Halifax, West Yorkshire

CLIFFORD RUSSELL



The West fiddles while Lebanon burns

By early spring the temperature between the Hizbollah guerrillas in south Lebanon and the Israelis in the so-called "security zone" had been rising for some time, and it was no surprise when the Israelis retaliated for the rocketing by Hizboltah of Kiryat Shmona on the north-

em Israeli border. Needless to say, each side blamed the other for being the first to breach a 1993 understanding that neither would attack civilian targets. With Israeli elections less than two months away, the opposition accusing the government of being soft on terrorism, with the growing effectiveness of Hizbollah attacks and the corresponding frustration in the Israeli mil-itary, and, of course, with the serious plight of the inhabitants of Kiryat Shmona and other northern towns, no-one expected the Israeli retaliation to be confined to a

America and the European Union must intervene, says Anthony Parsons

However, a week later, it is impossible to use phrases like "measured response" and "proportionate retaliation" with any degree of credibility. The Israeli operation, although avoiding the use of ground troops, has been conducted on a massive scale. The inhabitants of south Lebanon have been forced to flee their homes in even greater numbers than in the equivalent crisis in 1993. It appears that over 10 per cent of Lebanon's population (about 400,000 people) are now refugees, the equivalent, in relation to the size of population, of 5.5 million people in Britain. In addition, Lebanese infrastructure has been targeted, including an important source of electricity supply for the capital.

As regards casualties, the Israelis emphasise the care they are taking to avoid killing or wounding innocent civilians. But this is an impossibility in an operation of this magnitude. The guerrillas are fish swimming in the sea of the civilian population, and things go wrong even in the most carefully conducted military operations. Every day the civilian casualty figures mount. Yesterday there was an exponential leap with the killing of scores of refugees sheltering in a UN compound and the wiping out of a family in Nabatea.

Every day the tevinant casualty negrees of refugees sheltering in a UN compound and the wiping out of a family in Nabatea.

Every day the tevinant casualty negrees are not seen to the control of the control o

It is hard to imagine a military solution. Hizbollah remains defiant and continues to fire rockets into Israel. The Lebanese

government cannot and will not respond Hizbollah's fangs would be drawn. Syria to Israeli pressure to move in and disarm would see to that. the guerrillas. Only the Syrians could do that and they have no intention of doing so. Apart from any other consideration, the Lebanese government cannot be seen by its own people as abetting the Israeli occupation of the south against which Hizbollah, its national support growing by the day, presents itself as the champion.

Only international diplomacy can defuse the crisis and reopen the path to a resumption of Israeli/Syrian discussions on the Golan Heights, which are the key to an eventual settlement in the Lebanon involving Israeli withdrawal from the "security zone". With such an agreement,

At the moment, the international effort is unco-ordinated. The United States has blocked action by the UN, and is, in bilateral negotiations with the parties, obviously closer to Israel than to the Lebanese or Syria. France is also pursuing an initiative that may or may not be possible to combine with American ideas. The European Union as a whole is nowhere to be seen and nothing much appears to have emerged from the Lebanese Prime Minister's visit

If, as I regret, the UN is to be excluded States and the European Union collectively

to London.

get together and co-ordinate a vigorous diplomatic initiative with the parties? The Europeans have access in places where the Americans do not, and vice versa. Such an approach would surely be more effective than the piecemeal efforts at present being

A full settlement of the problem must. as I have suggested, await an Israeli/Syrian agreement on the Golan Heights leading to Israeli withdrawal from the "security zone and a full Israeli/Lebanese peace treaty. That is for the longer term. Meanwhile, if the present crisis is not defused quickly, the Lebanon, still on the road to recovery after 15 years of grim civil war, could drown beneath the weight of the tragedies being beaped upon it.

from peacemaking, why can't the United The author was UK Pennanent Representative to the United Nations, (1979-82).

How to tackle the murder and mayhem

Bruce Hoffman explains what governments can do to fight terrorism

Events this past week have cratic combination of factors-historical, ideological, relicontinuing threat posed by terrorism to peace processes in both Northern Ireland and the Middle East, and even more so the difficulties governments everywhere face in effectively countering this menace.

The murder of 17 Greek tourists in Cairo yesterday morning is the latest and most lethal in a series of more than 30 attacks against foreign travellers that have occurred in Egypt since 1992. Only hours earlier a bomb had exploded in London, shattering any hope that the hiatus in IRA attacks following the Canary Wharf, Aldwych bus and Brompton cemetery bombings would last until the ail-party talks sched-

uled to be held in June. Meanwhile, Lebanon entered a second week of harsh Israeli military reprisals designed to end Hezboliah's cros:-border rocket attacks; Britain's short-lived policy of while the US Senate, on Wednesday, enacted sweeping new anti-terrorism legislation in the wake of last year's bombing in Oklahoma City. Indeed, today marks the first anniversary of that tragic incident.

Though otherwise unconnected, this series of events mevitably raises the question of what governments can do to combat so diverse and amor- rewards for information. phous a phenomenon as terrorism - if indeed there is anything that can realistically be done.

The fundamental problem is that terrorism erupts and

historical, ideological, reli-gious, social and economic to name but a few. Not surprisingly, therefore, the strategies and tactics used by govern-ments throughout the world to counter terrorism have varied just as widely, from such highly visible actions as declarations of states of siege, or martial law, enactment of anti-terrorist legislation, and strength-

ening of judicial powers, to less visible measures such as the establishment of computerised data banks, enhanced intelligence capabilities, and covert operations. Some of these countermea-

sures have been more suc-

cessful than others, such as Italy's use of so-called repentant laws, whereby imprisoned terrorists confessed to their crimes in return for reductions in their sentences. Some have not only failed, like interning terrorist suspects in early Seventies, but have alienating the public from the authorities and further polarising an already fractured political environment. Other government countermeasures have had mixed results, such as reprisals. amnesties and offers of cash

What the legacy of nearly three decades of counter-terrorist measures has shown is that flourishes due to an idiosyn- side a cohesive strategic frame- cess or failure of a terrorist

work or coherent national plan, can prolong a conflict or even lead to complete failure. Any plan, for example, must contain at least these three elements: legitimising measures, co-ordi-nation within and between national intelligence and security services, and collaboration

among governments.

Legitimising measures are critical to deprive the terrorists of legitimacy, undermine their

Legislation must aid the capture of terrorists, not alienate the

general population

claims as a viable alternative to the government, negate popular support or sympathy for them and redress any popular fuel unrest, or be exploited for proved counterproductive, anti-government purposes. Such measures can include political concessions to nationalist, ethnic or religious minorities and defensive steps to protect the public from terrorist

At the same time, anti-terrorist legislation must aid the government in the capture and prosecution of terrorists, but must not alienate the general population. The role of the the individual application of population. The role of the selected tactics and policies, out-

campaign is key and cannot be ously hampered international underestimated. Indeed, short of the complete suppression of civil liberties, a government cannot hope to defeat a terrorism campaign using coercive

measures alone Equally vital is co-ordination within and between national intelligence and security services and with law enforcement agencies. The success of any counter-terrorist effort will rest not only on the type and quality of information gathered, but on the timely and effective dissemination of that information to all relevant branches of a government's counter-terrorism apparatus. Given the inherently clandestine nature of terrorist organisations, the emphasis must of course be on the cultivation and exploitation of human intellience sources - what is known in the intelligence trade as

Collaboration between govmovement of terrorists, their the finances supporting their campaigns. Such co-operation will also facilitate the co-ordination and sharing of intelligence collection and dissemination as well as the efficacious processing of extradition requests. For example, terrorists operating in Western Europe during the Seventies and early Eighties were able to find political refuge in France, East European countries, and counter-terrorist efforts.

Since circumstances that allow implementation of all of these policies are unlikely to exist, it is critical for governments to devise counter-terrorist efforts that play to their strengths. Clearly, a democratic government will be unable to pursue intelligence or counter-terrorist operational activities as rigorously or repressively as a government less cognisant of civil liberties would do. On the other hand, without capitulating to terrorists, a democratic government can, for example, emphasise the development of thoughtful leg-islation that reflects popular All governments face new

problems in developing effective countermeasures, and these are likely to render combating terrorism even more difficult than it has been in the past. But while new challenges and ernments is also essential to threats will includably require approaches, these countermeasures can be effectively developed and built upon from the lessons from previous experiences. The wheel should not always have to be re-invented, nor should certain inherent prerequisites to effective counterterrorism campaigns based on past experience be ignored or

The writer is Director of the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at St the Middle East and this seri- Andrew's University.



Cairo yesterday: there have been more than 30 attacks on tourists in Egypt since 1992 AFP

Downsizing isn't always a dirty word

Job insecurity may not be a wholly bad thing - a fluid labour market can bring economic benefits for society

Tews this week of the lowest unemployment for five years sits oddly with the continuing stories of "downsizing" - that dreadful euphemism for sacking people - by large British companies.

Even allowing for the way the unemployment figures are presented, it is clear that the job situation in Britain is slowly improving. Employment does appear to be rising, and the absolute levels of unemployment are now quite low by European standards, even if they are high compared with the United States and much of East Asia. Yet, equally, there is no doubt that jobshedding by large and not so large companies continues. Almost every time companies merge or are taken over, they find they need fewer staff; indeed that seems to be one of the principal reasons driving such mergers.

The result is the well-recognised mismatch between statistics and perceptions: the stats may say the job market is getting better, but that is not the way it feels to people fearful (quite rightly) of losing their jobs. This leads into a politicised discussion about the perils of insecurity, with, naturally, tremendous pressure to find ways of reducing it, or at least protecting people from its most damaging effects. Hardly ever in this debate does anyone ever dare suggest that (a) job insecurity may not have risen very much, or (b) insofar as it has, there might be positive benefits not just to the individuals who can take advantage of the more fluid market for their skills, but for society as a whole. Yet there is a decent case to be made for both these ideas.

It is very hard to measure actual job insecurity (as opposed to perceived insecurity) except by looking at job Renure. How long do people stay in the same job? The answer is that over the past 10 years not a lot has changed: the average has come down a little, with men changing jobs rather more frequently but women staying rather longer in their jobs.

The trouble with these measures is that it does not tell you why people move from one job to another. There is a world of difference between frequent job-hopping because the employee keeps getting offered a higher salary by a competitor, and scrambling from one short-term position to another, not knowing where the next job will come from until one is on the street. Statistically, they may look the same, but they certainly do

I have not seen any good-quality British analysis of this, but a lot of work has gone on in America, where this cult of insecurity would seem to have been longer established. The upshot of this seems to be that though there are high levels of insecurity in the US, these are not any higher now than they were 10 years ago. For some groups they are lower.

One particular piece of work, by Henry Farber of Princeton University, has looked at downsizing in the period 1981-1993. The rate of job losses has risen a little between 1981-83 and 1991-93, but the more remarkable thing was the shift in its nature. Manual workers were more likely to lose their jobs in the earlier period, while managers more likely in the later one. In other words, job security of



manual workers, far from falling, actually rose; it was people higher up the income scale who suffered an increase in insecurity.

Other studies have shown that 10year retention rates - the chances of someone holding a job for the full 10 years - have actually risen since the early Seventies: at least they were higher in 1991 than they were in 1973. But as an article in the New Yorker which reported these studies noted, the key feature of the American economy that distinguishes it from those of Europe is the vigour with which it creates new jobs. This leads to the second point: the possibility that there are economic benefits for society as a whole from a more fluid, less secure,

Obviously, there will be individual

market makes possible. But suppose it becomes possible to run an economy at a higher rate of overall demand. Could the low unemployment of the US be the beneficial by-product of the insecurity that many US workers feel about their jobs?

Economists talk about a thing called the Nairu, shorthand for the offputting "Non-Accelerating Inflation Rate of Unemployment", the minimum rate of unemployment below which the economy will suffer accelerating inflation. For the past few months there has been a great debate raging in the US as to whether the Nairu has come down. Indeed, economists being true to their stereotype, there has been a pretty furious debate as to whether it is a useful concept at all. The level of unemployment, after all, is only one of several influences on inflation. Such luminaries from the economists' hall of fame as the Nobel prize winner Paul Krugman and the veteran JK Galbraith have locked antlers in a debate in the pages of the International Economy magazine on

But the practical point here is that the Nairu seems to have come down, winners. Obviously, consumers will for the US has managed to hold benefit from the lower prices or more unemployment below 6 per cent (it is

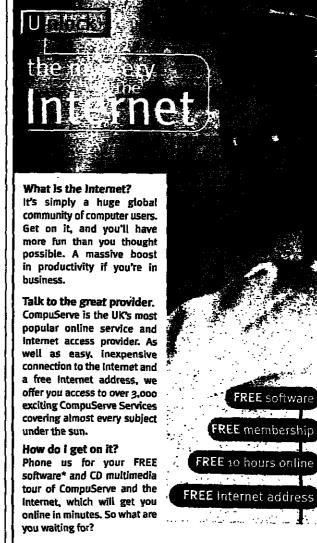
flexible service that the fluid labour 5.6 per cent now) and yet keep inflamarket makes possible. But suppose tion at an acceptable 2.8 per cent. The policy-makers took a chance and seem

to have won. Kenneth Clarke is taking a chance here and he will only win if the British Naîru has come down. We have a government intent on pushing down interest rates whenever it gets the opportunity, and, thanks to a fall-off in tax receipts, running a laxer-than-planned fiscal policy, too. But there has been no evident resurgence of inflation. Just this week the producer price data was encouraging and yesterday's retail prices were OK.

In the last boom it was clear that unemployment below about 7.5 per cent would encourage a rise in inflation. We are at 7.8 per cent now. But suppose the greater perception of insecurity and the greater mobility of labour in general means that we can go on down to, say, 6 per cent unemployment or below without encouraging a surge in inflation. If we can, there will be an enormous social benefits, quite aside from the obvious eco-

You can go a stage further in the argument and say that a country with a fluid job market needs to be run at a higher level of demand to offer bet-ter employment opportunities for peo-ple who are displaced: that vigorous creation of new jobs is the necessary economic and social counterbalance to the rapid destruction of old ones.

To welcome job insecurity would be to push the argument too far. For the self-confident, the talented, the energetic, the skilled, the present labour market probably presents more opporpunities than the slow-moving, bureaucratic market of the Fifties and Sixties. But for the risk-averse it can be a nightmare. However to fail to recognise that there are benefits which accrue not just to the evident winners but to society as a whole, is to make ourselves more miserable than



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Next week in *INDEPENDENT Monday: Andrew Marr abour: does it

What would a New Labour government mean for you, your family and the state of the nation? Next week the Independent's team of writers will answer those questions with the most thorough assessment yet of the values and ideas that underpin New Labour's policies.

examines Tony Blair's version of Victorian values. Tuesday: Polly Toynbee explores New Labour's new conservatism.

Wednesday: Hamish McRae questions the party's conversion to capitalism. Thursday: Yvette Cooper asks whether Labour has abandoned the ideal of equality

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

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Southern bid for **National Power** set to go hostile

MICHAEL HARRISON and MARY FAGAN

A hostile bid battle for National Power, the country's biggest electricity generator, looked in prospect last night after it flatly rebuffed a merger approach from the giant US power company, Southern.

John Baker, National Power's chairman, wrote to Southern yesterday rejecting its request for a meeting, questioning its ability to mount an offer that shareholders would find acceptable and dismissing its rationale for seeking a merger.

National Power sources added that, although Southern had presented its proposals as a "combination" of equals, it was clear that it was a straight-forward, old-fashioned take-

In his letter to Thomas Boren, president of Southern Electric International, Mr Baker said: "National Power is not now and will not be for sale unless compelling value for our shareholders, compared with what we can realise from our own plans, is put forward in a

The sudden and marked hardening in National Power's stance pointed to an all-out takeover battle, with the market expecting Southern to open with an offer of at least 650p,

ed offer then the Government is not expected to use its golden share to block a takeover. leaving it instead to shareholders to decide. However, it could use its power of veto to wring concessions out of Southern to further open up the generating market to competition.

The initial meeting between the two sides on Tuesday night. after Southern's planned approach leaked into the market. had appeared to be at least polite if not amicable.

However, Mr Baker's letter corrected that impression. He said it remained National Power's strategy to acquire the regional UK company Southern Electric, that the US company formed no part of its plans and that nothing had happened to cause it to revise those plans.

Mr Baker also criticised Southern's capital structure, saying: "The Southern Company's market capitalisation equivalent to £9.77bn compared with National Power's £6.56bn and your existing debt make us question your ability to structure an acquisition which offers our shareholders fair val-

ue for their company." The letter went on to say that the logic of combining Sweb, the regional electricity company

valuing the generator at more than £Sbn. Should the Atlanta-based utility launch a contest-attractive" as National Power's proposed merger with Southern Electric.

If Southern did make an of-fer, including a price, details of how it would be financed and plans for the business, National Power would consider whether to agree to a meeting.

Southern, although clearly disappointed at National Power's response, is expected to present a formal proposal early next week. It has been eyeing the generator for nearly a year.

The US company owns five electricity suppliers in Georgia, Alabama and Florida and a number of generating plants, including three nuclear stations, and has long-term debts of £5.5bn. Last year it made net profits of \$1.1bn (£723m) on turnover of \$9.1bn against National Power's pre-tax profit of £705m on sales of £3.95bn.

The Government is expected to announce next week or the week after whether it will allow the takeovers of Southern Electric and Midlands Electricity to The Monopolies and Merg-

ers Commission had been thought to have cleared the two bids with only minimal conditions attached. But City and industry observers believe that the Trade and Industry Secretary.



Rejected: Thomas Boren of Southern

lan Lang may impose significantly more onerous conditions as the price for allowing the two mergers to proceed.

DTI sources said it could not be assumed that any bid by

would escape referral to the MMC even if the two bids by the generators got clearance. peatedly that he will judge the

Southern does not appear to be interested in taking over both National Power and Southern Electric. In any event such a move would increase markedly the prospects of a referral.

The boys from Southern reach over the ocean

Southern Company is among the largest and most colourful of the North American utilities. with operations across the southern states and overseas, writes Mary Fagan.
Its roots lie in the Alabama

Power Company, founded in 1906 by a steamboat captain, WP Lay, to develop power on the Coosa River. Alabama's utility industries provided the basis for expansion until 1920 when Tom Martin, then legal counsel, took up the presiden-cy and bestowed on the company the more ambitious title of Southeastern Power and Light.

Southern now has electricity supply companies in four US states and to this day operates a generating station on the Coosa River. Its overseas arm, Southern Electric International, has become increasingly aggressive in extending the reach of the empire beyond home territory. But for the Southern boys last year's acquisition of South Western Electricity in the UK was the largest bite so far to swallow. It was also the first hostile takeover bid they had made. Not content with power plays in its own sector. Southern is ex-

panding into communications services - primarily for the Photograph: Reuter companies within the group but with a view to offering its skills to the business community at large. It has apparently taken the view that a company of its experience can span the range of utility activities. The next development - flagged earlier this week by chairman

Bill Dahlberg - is likely to be the acquisition of a water business, Southern is not without its critics. It gained notoriety in the 1980s for attracting the attention of the Securities and Ex-

change Commission after allegations of tax violations and allegations of unethical business In April 1991 two share-holders filed a suit against a number of its directors alleging fraudulent accounting, illegal political campaign contribu-tions and violations of federal

securities laws. In 1992 the suit, brought under Federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act. was dismissed by the US District Court for Southern Georgia but that dis-missal was reversed by the US Court of Appeal in April 1994 and the action is still pending. According to Southern's of-

fer document for Sweb, one of its subsidiaries, Georgia Power, is also in dispute with the Internal Revenue Service over unpaid taxes of up to \$32m. The company has challenged the IRS in a petition to the US Tax Court but meanwhile it made a payment to the IRS in September 1994. In 1995 it was ordered to pay

\$2m in legal fees related to defamation and breach of contract suit by a former executive.

The publicity has not dercess

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11.7

terred it from the high-profile approach to Britain's larget power generator and all the po-litical scrutiny that will in-

speculation over an overseas bid

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

Shares in Cable & Wireless soared in late trading yesterday. fuelling speculation that an overseas group may bid for the company which is already in the throes of £36bn merger talks

Analysts said that potential predators could include Global One, a partnership between Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom and Sprint of the US.

Deutsche Telekom's finance director, Joachim Kroeske, said last week that the company had been in informal contact with C&W. While Deutsche later played down the prospect that it might bid, it stopped short of denying an interest. Deutsche is seen as a credible buyer for Mercury Communications, Cable's UK arm, but industry sources say that it lacks the financial muscle to bid alone for

the entire group. Stet, the Italian telecommunications operator controlled by the state holding company, IRI, has also confessed to have looked at C&W.

The rise in C&W's shares began early in the day after reports that the group may announce an agreement in principle to merge with BT before the necessary approval is given by the regulatory authorities. C&W's shares closed 24p up at 546p, valuing the company at £12.1bn, and BT finished 6.5p higher at 379p on the view in the City that the talks were progressing well.

The negotiations moved up a gear earlier this week with the first formal meeting between BT chief executive. Sir Peter Bonfield and Rod Olsen, C&W's acting chief executive. which has an annual turnover of C&W had been looking for a \$\frac{4}{5}\text{0m}\$, is less than 1 per cent of come out," one senior reporter

FT Small Cap

<u>FT All Share</u>

long Kong

parture in November of James Ross but the emergence three with BT have put such devel-

C&W declined to comment on the surge in its shares but advisors pointed to the announcement of reorganisation of its business in central and eastern Europe to "put it on a sound commercial footing" The changes will result in a £120m exceptional charge, which will be offset by a firsthalf exceptional profit of £199m on the disposal of the group's holding in Mannesman Mobil-

funk of Germany. Stephen Pettit, executive director for Europe and mobile, said: "We have taken positive management action [in our central and eastern European businesses]. This is expected to have a beneficial impact on future trading. Nevertheless, having reassessed the market outlook, the expectations we had when we first entered the these markets have not been realised and we have written down the book value of these businesses to reflect the reali-

ties of the marketplace." He said that the group is working to build relationships with other operators in the region where C&W has stakes in companies in St Petersburg. Belarussia, Moscow, Kazakhstan, Latvia and Bulgaria.

C&W stressed that the changes have nothing to do with negotiations with BT Separately, BT said it has bought Dutch information tech-

"to further strengthen its position in Europe".

C&W soars on | Woolwich tells packed house it 'had a duty' to oust Robinson

NIC CICUTTI

Woolwich Building Society forced its chief executive Peter Robinson to resign over al-leged financial irregularities because its board had a "duty" weeks ago of exploratory talks | to do so, the chairman, Sir Brian Jenkins, said yesterday.

Sir Brian told more than 850 members at the society's annual meeting - twice the normal number who attend - that the decision had been reached with 'great regret".

Although Mr Robinson's picture appeared in the society's annual report and accounts handed out to members, Woolwich vesterday used a procedural device to ensure his name was not put before members for

re-election to the board. "The decision we were faced with two weeks ago was not one

any of us enjoyed having to face - and certainly not to have to take," Sir Brian said. "We did our best to decide in good faith, and as swiftly as cir-

cumstances allowed, what we believed to be in the best interests of the society, its members, customers and staff." He added: "The board decided ... that at the root of this

issue was the loss of confidence and trust on the part of the board and the senior management in our former chief ex-Despite several questions from the floor of the meeting,

he refused to go into further details, beyond saying that the society had appointed lawyers and accountancy firm KPMG as external auditors to investigate the matter further. Sir Brian's comments yes-

terday came as supporters and opponents of the society's flotation, planned for the spring of 1997, opposed each other in the

pressure group hoping to force portion of democracy that was every building society to abandon mutual status, congratulated the Woolwich board for its decision. However, he called for the society to set up a charitable trust similar to that planned by Northern Rock, which aims to devote 5 per cent of its annual profits to deserving causes in the North-east.

Peter Budek, of the rival Woolwich Action Group shares. against de-mutualisation, claimed the decision to float would mean "selling our current mortgage and investment rates to the Stock Exchange". More £5 each.

branch closures, staff redundancies and a worsening of services would follow the decision to de-mutualise, he said.

Michael Hardern, a founder of Members for Flotation, a After the meeting, Mr Budek said: "If we vote in favour of this, we will be handing over a handed to us on trust. We have no more moral right to sell off the Woolwich than the Queen has to sell Buckingham Palace." Many members turned on a

handful of supporters of socalled "carpetbaggers", the 30,000 investors who rushed to open accounts days before the float was announced in January, in the hope of winning free

They were shut out retrospectively by the society. One member claimed that paying them off would only cost about

Alliance & Leicester to axe 100 managers

Alliance & Leicester is making up to 100 of its branch and office managers redundant in a re-organisation of duties within the building society, writes to run their branches instead. Nic Cicatti.

part of Alliance & Leicester's selling a wide range of financia in regional centres throughout the country.

The re-organisation, due to take effect in July, means that about one in five of 500 senior branch staff will lose their jobs. The news was broken to them at a series of regional meetings yesterday afternoon.

The new structure removes one of the duties traditionally carried out by old-style branch managers, that of winning mort-

gage business through the intermediary market, such as estate agents and financial advisers. They will be expected

Kevin Southwood, manag-Office managers, who run the ing director of personal finansociety's 360 branches, will be cial services, said: "The new replaced by branch managers. structure recognises the in-Meanwhile, responsibility for creasing focus of branches on mortgage business will be services, whilst having a dedipassed to new teams operating cated sales force who secure mortgage business through the intermediary market."

He stressed that many of the redundancies were expected to be on a voluntary basis.

Adrian Nurse, chairman of the Alliance & Leicester's staff association, said: "Obviously, we are very disappointed. At least this time, unlike other occasions, it is management staff rather than those below them who are being made redundant."

Funding setback for 'Sunday Business' launch

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

Britain's first business-only Sunday newspaper was insisting last night that its launch this weekend will go ahead despite the loss of its main potential backer earlier this week. Senior executives of Sunday Business spent yesterday frantically seeking fresh financial backing, after a second big potential backer on Wednesday broke off pre-launch negotiations.
Senior staff were told yes-

terday morning of difficulties but were assured by Tom Rubython, the founder and editor, that the newspaper was going ahead, and the 65 journalists nology firm Rijnhaave Groep were writing for the launch.

The paper is looking good, there are plenty of scoops, it will

The price tag for Rijnhaave

1816,60 3.76

1954.06 2.98

Lucas Industries 224

21883.04 19734.70 0.71†

Source: FT Information

19<u>27.20</u>

Sunday Business denied there were any launch problems.

"I can assure you no backer has pulled out. If there is an issue it is about the phasing of investments," he said. "The difficulties are purely because we were relying on a potential backer coming on board and he is not, so there is a possible issue of post-launch money." The chequered history of the

launch, which already included one postponement and a pulled float on the Alternative Investment Market, took a marked turn for the worse on Tuesday when the biggest potential investor, the Hinduja family from Bombay, finally

Problems over payment had reportedly aiready emerged with West Ferry Printers, halfowned by the Daily Telegraph, which were casting doubt on be-

Price (s) Charge (s) % Change

6 1.8

Stagecoach Hidgs 409

An official spokesman for ing able to print this weekend. Business abandoned a plan to unday Business denied there Sunday Business said it had a float on AIM, after receiving a fall-back printing plan.

The newspaper has booked television advertising slots for tonight and Saturday ahead of the launch. It is believed that Sunday Business's initial cash funding is now close to exhaustion. Man-

agement assurances failed to

dispel the gloom among staff

about the newspaper's prospects. One senior editor yesterday confided fears that the chances of the newspaper launching this weekend were slim unless last-minute talks to raise bridg-

ing finance bore fruit. The costs so far have been largely borne by Mr Rubython himself, who is said to have sunk about £1.5m into the venture. The plan was to raise a further £10m to cover the start-up financing. In February, Sunday

cool response from would-be shareholders. Mr Rubython had been ne-

gotiating with the Hinduja brothers, who have an international investment business, as the potentially biggest investor, but they finally pulled out on Tuesday. Talks with another unnamed significant backer then reportedly ran into difficulties the following day, and one senior executive said they were not expected to return to the table before this weekend's planned launch.

Other senior Sunday Business executives are believed to be continuing discussions with potential backers. One possibility now being

raised is that, should Mr Rubython fail to complete the financial arrangements, he would step aside as editor.

new chief executive since the de- BT's consolidated net assets. STOCK MARKETS Close 9ay's change Change(%) 1995/96 Kigh 1995/96 Low Yield(%) 4493.60 4015.30 3.31 FTSE 250 +29.50

+8.70

+6.14

2535.52 +11.34 +0.4

10909.29 -53.40

Bond Yields * Moder Market Rates 1 Houth 1 Year | Medium Pond (%) | Year Ago Long Berel (%) Year Ago 5.75. 0.56 1.06 Germany 3.25 3.31

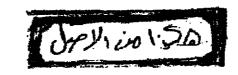
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DM (London) 1.5121 +0.48pt 1.3704 QM (London) 2,2795 +0.58pt 2.2096 ¥ (London) 107.470 -Y0.765 82,665 ¥ (London) 162,011 -Y1,256 133,293 \$ todex 96.7 -0.1 87,5 84.5 _83.6 unch lades Latest frilgo Mest Figs Testerian Bay's chig Than Ago 151.5+2.7pc_147.5 16 May 18.40 -0.72 18.74 RPI Of Brent S 107.0+2.0pc 105.1 29 Apr 391.20 -0.25 393.50 GDP 107.0+2.0pc 105.1 259.50 +0.00 244.03 Base Rates — 6.00pc 6.75



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CERTIFIC DILL SETTING

With Southern Company's approach to National Power now more or less certain to turn hostile, another barrowload of fees is heading in the

City's direction'

A curious move that will boost City coffers Tostile takeover bids are always going to turn it hostile, their fee is immediately enbe a necessary and inevitable feature of hanced. If they can extract a higher offer, a and-thrust, invective and lobbying, they end go into a fresh tailspin.

any free market economy. Naive and mis-guided is the man who believes everything can and should be agreed by civilised nego-tiation. The real world doesn't world like that, And in the Anglo-Saxon world at least, hostile bids are one of the few effective ways of bringing about management change or forc-

ing the pace of corporate evolution.

Less clear is whether they actually ever produce any real economic benefit. What little serious research there has been on the issue is at best ambiguous. As a bargaining tool, a way of extracting fair value for shareholders in the target company, they may have something to commend them. Nor can companies m a free society ever be compelled to agree a takeover, however much it might be in their interests to do so. But "hostiles" are also essentially a racket, deliberately encouraged and fostered by City and Wall Street advisers as a way of earning fees.

This is a not undue exaggeration of the way it works. The predator is deliberately advised to bid low. Only in part is this motivated by the possibility of a bargain. No, what the advisers are really thinking about is turning the bid hostile, which in turn means higher fees. It also generally means two sets of fees, for the first bid is unlikely to succeed. Inevitably, it has to be followed by a second. higher offer. The same is true of the demultiplier sets in. If they successfully defend the company, it's like winning the Lottery. To suggest that takeover battles are whol-

ly motivated by such considerations is taking the argument too far. But City fees are certainly a large part of the equation. With Southern Company's approach to National Power now more or less certain to turn hostile, another barrowload is heading in the City's direction. It would plainly be unfair, as well as possibly libellous, to suggest that National Power's unambiguous and strong-ly worded rejection of Southern's approach is even in part the result of conspiracy to boost the City's coffers. But its refusal to talk in any shape or form about the possibility of an agreed deal is a curious thing. Even by its own admission, it hasn't seen what Southern has to offer yet.

To be fair on John Baker, chairman of National Power, in any merger proposal, share-holder value is not the only consideration. He doesn't accept the logic of the American proposal, he worries about their ability to finance such a huge deal and he genuinely believes his own alternative tie-up with a British Rec to be the better way forward. Commendably, he also wants to see National Power as its own force on the international stage, a powerful, British-run international energy group. But before closing the door fending company's advisers, who generally entirely, he should at least listen to what the get little out of an agreed deal. If they can

up victorious anyway, the only real winners are going to be City investment bankers.

BA finds a **US** feeder

Had British Airways possessed such a facility, it is plain that it would never have forked out \$400m to acquire a minority stake in USAir.

While the benefits of the alliance itself con-tinue to flow through to BA's bottom line they are now reckoned to be worth some \$150m a year - the investment itself turned into a lemon a long time ago. BA has been forced to write down the value of its holding by half and has forfeited any number of preference share dividend payments as USAir piloted itself into one bout of severe turbulence after another. So much for BA's guiding principle that in all joint ventures it is the cement of equity holdings that binds the partners together and makes the alliance work. It did not need 20:20 vision then for BA to decide that when it came to searching out another partner in the good of US

of A it could dispense with the Readimix. The deal signed yesterday with America West Airlines will provide BA with feeder traffic from a dozen south-western cities ini-

Code-share agreements, such as the one that BA has stitched up with America West, are all the rage these days. They enable one airline to use another's services, flight codes and aircraft as if they were its own. There are some who believe this to be a massive deception on the travelling public. But it is nothing like the deception worked on share-holders when airlines believe the only way they can extract benefits from international alliances is by buying into one another.

Clarke works the smoke and mirrors

The good citizens in the City of London I looked at yesterday's public sector borrowing figures and concluded that it would be hard to justify tax cuts this year. There is a hole of £3.2bn in the Government's finances compared with what the Treasury expected as recently as November, and £10bn compared with its forecast a year earlier.

Before we all get carried away by this tide of civic responsibility in the Square Mile, however, it is as well to remember that this is exactly what most of the same analysis were saying at the same stage last year. When they were looking at the public borrowing out-turn for 1994/5, the numbers were different but the record was the same. There was an tially without it having to share the pain of overshoot and therefore no scope for tax cuts.

It did not stop Mr Clarke cutting taxes, nor. in the event, did the markets seem to think he had been wildly irresponsible. We will get tax cuts this year too. Perhaps not on the bonanza scale the right-wing of the Tory par-ty might prefer, but Mr Clarke will be able to surprise us with a few billions' worth.

He is likely to dress up the fiscal arithmetic

in the same way as last November. Planned spending totals for future years will be spending totals for father years where sliced even further. This technique was greeted with scepticism last year, when spending plans had slipped. However, the freasury has cracked the whip this year, so 1995/96 spending was only £1bn above its target. If it succeeds as much during the course of this year, reducing future totals will look a bit less like pie in the sky.

The second element will be the usual re-

duction in the contingency reserve as the year to which it applies draws closer. The 1997/98 reserve stands at £5bn and could respectably be halved. The third source of money for cutting in-

come tax will be increases in other taxes. In last year's Budget Mr Clarke raised about £500m from "anti-avoidance measures". He will do the same again. Thus, through a combination of smoke and mirrors, promised though not delivered cuts in spending, the never-never of the private finance initiative. and a bit of help from the corporate sector, the Chancellor will find £5bn to hand back to the voters. And when the time comes the City will greet it as a responsible Budget.

Economy: As European interest rates fall, inflation worries temper hopes of further UK moves

Bundesbank cuts rates as recession fears grow

Economics Editor

Germany's Bundesbank cut its key interest rate by half a point to an all-time low of 2.5 per cent yesterday. The surprise move was a reaction to fears of re-

own. But the economics i istry said it was doubtful whether the economy would achieve its 1.5 per cent growth forecast this year.

The feeble state of the Geragenda at this weekend's meetindustrial countries in Washington. The Bundesbank's chief economist, Otmar Issing, said vesterday: "The economy is weak but this is not a recession. We still hope the second half of the year will be better."

The move came as a surprise because financial markets ex-

pected rapid growth in M3, the Bundesbank's monetary target, to delay a move. The statement with yesterday's reductions said: "Monetary trends are overstated by current figures."

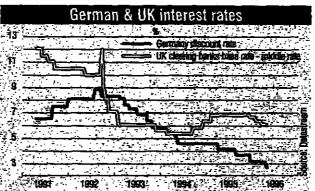
In March M3 grew at an annualised rate of 12.2 per cent cession in Europe's biggest compared with the fourth quarter of 1995. This was slightly Finance minister Theo lower than February's 12.8 per Waigel said the fall in the cost cent but well above the 4 to 7 of borrowing would help boost per cent target. However, Hans Heimeyer, the Bundesband president, said: "We see no direct inflation risk."

Julian Jessop, an economist at HSBC Markets, said: "The economy is clearly struggling man economy will be on the and there is no inflation threat on the horizon. A half-point rate ing of the Group of Seven cut buys a little insurance against the risk that the expected economic recovery disappoints." Some economists suggested the Bundesbank might reduce rates even further if the economy remained weak later in the year.

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International



Hans Tietmeyer: Denied any direct risk of inflation



Monetary Fund, said the German move was "desirable". He said France should take advantage of the strength of its currency by following suit.
The Bundesbank's move was

swiftly followed yesterday by rate reductions in Austria, Belgium. Denmark and the Netherlands. Austrian interest rates are at their lowest since the end of World War Two, Spanish and Italian central banks are expected to follow suit.

Germany's GDP fell by 0.4 per cent in the final quarter of last year, and could have shrunk by as much as 1 per cent during the first three months of this year.

The Bundesbank cut its discount rate, which sets a floor for other interest rates, by half a point to 2.5 per cent. It also cut half a point off the Lombard rate, taking it to 4.5 per cent. It fixed its repo rate, the key rate for money market intervention. at 3 per cent for two weeks.

The Government borrowed lower corporate taxes, VAT over £3bn more than its target and income tax revenues explained the rest. Economists regard missing the spending target by "only" £1bn as an achievement, while corporate and income taxes were seen as

£3bn borrowing

overshoot cools

clude yesterday that there was no room for tax cuts in the next Budget, writes Diane Coyle, With inflation flat last month, rather than falling as expected, the City believes there is no scope for lower interest rates

either. Kevin Darlington, at Hoare Govett, said: "The electoral bias will be to go for another cut, but financial markets would punish ill-founded policy movements." There was further evidence lower than in the previous fi-

yesterday of the gradual pickup in the economy that has turned the tide of opinion on interest rates. Sales growth among service businesses was the highest for a decade in the first quarter of this year, according to the British Chambers of Commerce, although manufacturing remained weak.

Separate figures showed a 5.3 per cent jump in car production in the first quarter. Output for export was up 11.3 per cent while home car production was down a fraction.

The gap between government spending and revenues in 1995/96 was £32.2bn, compared with targets of £29bn set in the last Budget, and £21.5bn set in the 1994 Budget. "Tax cuts in November's Budget would be hard to justify," said David Walton at Goldman Sachs. Excess spending accounted

for £1bn of the overrun, while

hopes of tax cuts

in the financial year to March, leading City economists to con-

acceptably close to their target. However, the shortfall in VAT revenues during the past 12-18 months has the Treasury puzzled. It has research under way to find out the cause. A spokesman said yesterday that the public sector borrowing requirement remained on a downward trend. It was £3.7bn

nancial year, or almost £8bn when privatisation receipts are excluded. The City thinks government borrowing is likely to fall further this year, but most experts see the Chancellor's £22.4bn target as over-ambitious. Independent forecasters put it at between £25bn and £30bn.

Separate figures showed headline retail price inflation unchanged at 2.7 per cent last month. The target measure, excluding mortgage interest payments, stayed at 2.9 per cent, compared with the 2.5 per

cent target. There was upward pressure from house prices, seasonal foods and leisure goods, offset by lower prices for petrol. Weather accounted for many of the seasonal food price increases. Cold weather in Spain raised lettuce and tomato

IN BRIEF

 BT has won a VAT tribunal case that may lead to hundreds of British companies reclaiming VAT paid on their car fleets as far back as the 1970s. The case – which began last year, when BT decided to challenge having to pay the tax on the delivery of its 11,000 cars - turned on the fact that the UK government has never drawn up national legislation to implement the European di-rective dealing with VAT. But Ernst & Young, BT's tax adviser, also argued that the charges for the delivery of the cars were distinct from those for the supply of the cars themselves – and so outside a "blocking order" the UK applies to the directive in order to prevent VAT on cars being reclaimed.

 Orange pic, the national digital cellular telephone service, said it had more than 500,000 active customers. Since January 1996 Orange has acquired more than 120,000 new customers, said the company – which has just been floated at a valuation of £2.45bn.

• Bunzl, the international paper and plastics group, said it had agreed with Norcros to acquire the PP Payne group of companies, a supplier of self-adhesive tear tapes and a manufacturer of plastic strapping, for £43.4 m. The operating profit of Payne and its subsidiaries for the year ended March 1995 was £4m.

 Royal Insurance chairman Allan Gormly said he expected operating profit in the first quarter to be lower than at the same time last year because of severe weather. Addressing shareholders at the insurer's annual general meeting. Mr Gormly said the first two months of 1996 had experienced a continuation of the severe weather seen at the end of 1995 in the US and the UK. He added "one quarter's result in the insurance industry is not significant and I am pleased to confirm that we still face 1996 with confidence."

• Airbus Industrie, the consortium that builds the Airbus, said it expected aircraft deliveries to rise 37 per cent to 185 aircraft in 1997 and that it would deliver 135 aircraft in 1996. Airbus said it would make changes to speed up its delivery schedule to meet the increased demand.

 Guardian Royal Exchange and the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) have confirmed that discussions are being held about a long-term strategic alliance, centred on the use of the RAC brand name for the marketing of insurance and financial services products and the acquisition of the RAC Insurance Services operation. RAC Insurance Services currently has more than 300,000 policies, predominantly motor, on its books, which together with Guardian Direct would make GRE a leading direct insurance writer in the UK with half a million direct policies.

• The De Benedetti family holding company denied a news report that Olivetti & C SpA is in talks with Machines Bull and France Telecom to swap equity and merge its computer activi-ties with those of Bull. A CIR spokesman said "no negotiation is in course with the French computer group".

 Oxford Molecular Group pic said it had entered into an agreement, in principle, for a three-year collaborative research programme with Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical, centred on the identification of modulators of a class of proteins known as ion channels. Under the terms of the agreement, Yamanouchi, the third-largest pharmaceutical company in Japan, will have exclusive rights to develop and license compounds invented during the

 Cie Generale des Eaux said it had a net loss of Fr3.686bn (£490m) in 1995, after a net profit of F3.35bn (£452m) a year earlier. The company expects to return to "good levels" of results from ongoing operations from 1997 onwards.

ANNUAL RESULTS

Year ended 31st December 1995

Profit before tax

Earnings per share

Dividends per share

Net assets per share

Dividends Up

Operating Profit Up

Record Pre-Tax Profit

Net Assets per Share Up

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Trafalgar House clears decks

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Three executive directors of Trafalgar House, the QE2 to construction group, are set to pick up a total of £862,000 following their removal from the board yesterday.

The move comes as part of a wholesale clear-out by Kvaerner of Norway following news that its £904m bid had gone unconditional. One survivor is Peter Ward, chairman and chief executive of the troubled Cunard shipping line, who keeps Nigel Rich, the chief execu-

tive who was appointed by former majority shareholder Hongkong Land in August 1994, is expected to pick up a severance cheque of £350,000. David Gawler, finance director, is in line for £215,000 and James Watkins, legal director.



Nigel Rich: expected to receive £350,000 pay-off

could take away £297,000. All three are on a one-year fixed contract and are expected to receive their full contractual en-

There will be no options payments as the bid price of 50p a share is well below the level at which option shares due to senior management are priced. Mr Ward, who was paid a basic salary of £88,000 last year. is being kept on despite conthe flagship QE2 luxury cruise

Earlier this month, Cunard confirmed that it had received a £15m compensation claim from Egypt after the ship ran aground on a reef in the Red

The incident followed a disastrous voyage in 1994, when the QE2 set sail before a refit had been properly completed and Comard had to pay compensation to passengers totalling £8.4m. Other to stay at Trafalgar are

John Fletcher, director in

charge of business develop-ment, and Alan Winter, commercial property director.

Kvaerner has appointed Erik Tonseth, its president and chief executive, as new chairman and chief executive of Trafalgar. At the same time, Jan Magne Heggelund, the Norwegian group's senior vice-president and chief financial officer, and Jan Greve, another Kvaemer director, have also been appointed to the Trafalgar board.

As expected, all the non-executive directors are leaving. These are the chairman, Simon Keswick, scion of the family which controls Hongkong Land; Charles Powell, non-executive deputy chairman; Dick Evans; Archibald Forster, Rodney Leach and Cob Stenham.

The clear-out marks the final end of a sorry chapter for the Keswick family.

BA in pact with America West

MICHAEL HARRISON

British Airways further strengthened its presence in the US yesterday by signing a marketing alliance with America West Airlines giving it access to passengers in the vast

West Coast market. The deal will allow BA to feed transatlantic passengers on to 96 domestic destinations served through America West's hub airport at Phoenix. Arizona.

In return America West, the

wide network of 194 scheduled destinations in 84 countries.

The agreement is similar to the alliance that BA has with USAir except that BA has no plans to take an equity stake in America West. It has paid \$400m (£263m) for a 24.6 per cent stake in USAir. Under a code-share agree-

ment with America West, BA plans, subject to US government approval, to start services to 11 destinations in the western US including Las Vegas. San Jose, Tuscon, Albur-US's ninth-largest carrier, will querque, El Paso, Lon Bech have access to BA's world- and Ontario via Phoenix.

vice from Gatwick to Phoenix on 1 July. Passengers will be able to book through tickets to destination beyond Phoenix as if if were a single flight, using the same flight code.

Passengers on each airline will also be eligible to earn and redeem mileage benefits on the other's frequent flyer programme.

America West flew 12.5 million passengers in the first nine months of last year and for the whole of 1995 made pre-tax profit of \$119m. It has 5,500 employees and a fleet of

BA will launch a daily ser- 72 aircraft and also has hubs in Las Vegas and Ohio.

The code-share agreement with USAir covers 71 destinations and is estimated to add about \$150m a year to BA's bottom line through extra passenger revenues and cost savings. But the equity stake itself

has proved a poor investment. Last year BA was forced to write down the value of the investment by a half and it declined to take up it rights in a new preference share issue. BA said there was no question of taking an equity stake in

America West at the present.

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£8.7m

23.6p

7.5p

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TENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF GROWTH

RMC homes in on further growth

Any company that issued a profits warning just seven months after raising £489m to finance a spending spree would normally set alarm bells ringing among investors. But there are miligating circumstances for RMC, the world's largest producer of ready-mixed concrete. The group has an ex-cellent track record and there are good grounds for believing that growth will

be resumed after a blip in 1996.
The rather gloomy short-term out-look makes RMC's record 1995 figures yesterday rather academic, although they do highlight the sheer quality of the company. Underlying profits before exceptionals jumped 16 per cent to £329m, despite a weakening of demand and lower volumes in Germany and the UK, RMC's two biggest markets.

The UK industry is showing much more restraint than it did in the dark days of 1992, when a price war meant RMC made just £10m on £1bn of turnover in its home market. Despite a 6 per cent fall in ready-mixed volumes in 1995, price rises of a similar amount and lower costs meant margins improved last year.

Based on better trading over the past month, RMC is optimistic the second half should show the UK housing market bouncing back from last year's destocking and the prolonged winter that prompted the profits warning.

More important is what happens in Germany, which contributes 52 per cent of group profits, but which was flat in local currency terms last year. Quite apart from the weather, the outlook there remains decidedly cloudy, as vesterday's decision by the Bundesbank to cut rates acknowledges. Last year's 13 per cent fall in housing permits will have a follow-through effect on 1996. The downturn comes just as RMC is completing the £300m refurbishment of its Rudersdorf cement works in eastem Germany and hot on the heels of its £367m purchase of the minority in its ready-mix operation there.

But RMC's acquisition cost of eight times historic earnings should take account of the position in the cycle when making the acquisition, while Rudersdorf should be protected shortterm by the booming Berlin construction market, to which it is adjacent.

RMC is confident the strength of the local market means it can outperform German industry forecasts of an 8-10 per cent fall in volumes this year. And if bad weather and lack of confidence restrain Europe this year, RMC's non-European operations in America and Israel continue to forge ahead.

Year-end gearing of 31 per cent means RMC could add to its aggregate interests in the UK, although it was THE INVESTMENT COLUMN reined back sharply in 1995 after a disastrous year, is being relaunched. The dividend of 0.5p is a demon-

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

RMC: at a glance

Market value: £2.61bn, share price £10.50

30.2

pence

38.1

Share price

playing down prospects of a bid for ei- of total sales and reduce the garment ther Camas or Bardon yesterday. Profits cut to £300m this year would put the shares, up 2p at 1,052p, on a forward multiple of 15. A firm hold.

New shapes at Laura Ashley

The Ann Iverson factor continues to boost Laura Ashley shares, which have doubled since the straight-talking American joined as chief executive last July. They rose another 11p to 175p yesterday as the market responded to a £10m profit for the year to January, re-versing a loss of £30m the previous year when the figures were hit by heavy restructuring charges.

The company says the Laura Ashley turnaround will take two to three years and there is a danger that the shares are running ahead of themselves, but the building blocks of a genuine re-

covery are gradually being put in place.

The plan to expand the group's sales in home furnishings to two-thirds

Five year record

Dividends per share (pence)

Trading profit

by geographical area, £m

Pre-tax profits (£m)

element looks interesting. Meanwhile, the proposal to open more standalone furnishing stores and expand the amount of space devoted to sofas and amount of space devoted to sofas and wallpaper should yield higher returns, particularly as the group's home furnishings production is far more efficient than its garment-making.

The store portfolio is being reshaped, with smaller stores being

closed and replaced by larger outlets which can show a wider range of the home furnishings on offer.

Manufacturing is also being radically overhauled. Finance director Jim Walsh says the group's manufacturing plant in Wales had "lost touch with eco-nomic reality", with horrific levels of seconds and utilisation running at a lowly 70 per cent. The 1,100 jobs in the Welsh operation will fall to around 700 over the next three years. Cost savings of £2m-£3m are expected, but a sale or closure is not ruled out.

The supply chain and distribution system are also being put under the microscope, as are selling prices, which Ms Iverson says were too high.

The mail order business, which was

1994

3.68

283

66.3

22.2

1995

4.12

342

81.4

25.0

the ind ins,	covery rating of 36. So far so good, but the prospects are already in the price.
ur- ent	Fisher offloads
re-	the losers

stration of confidence only partly borne out by current trading figures, which are strong in the UK but have fallen in the US and Europe. Analysis

are forecasting profits of £16m this

year, which puts the shares on a re-

Stephen Walls' tenure at the helm of Albert Fisher, the food group, has been punctuated by large exceptional charges as he has struggled to reshape the business away from low-margin, "commodity" areas. Thus far, the shares have resolutely failed to respond to the Walls treatment. Even after yesterday's 2.5p rise to 48.5p, they have underperformed the rest of the market by 47 per cent in the three years since he added executive duties to his chairman's role.

The hope is that yesterday's announcement of a new bout of disposals and write-offs will re-establish Fisher on the growth track. The biggest hit comes with the decision to withdraw from the German wholesale produce business, which will result in a £42.8m exceptional charge this year. The group also revealed that it was discussing the disposal of a majority stake in its North American distribution business and its joint lettuce- grow-

ing venture.

Together, the three disposals will remove profits which totalled £3.6m last year and, Fisher revealed vesterday, turned in losses of £4.5m in the latest six-month period to February. The deficit on discontinued operations held operating profits broadly level at £23.3m in the first half, while the exceptional items plunged the group to a pre-tax loss of £24m, reversing profits of £12.6m last time. Analysts drew some comfort from the fact that Fish-

er held the half-way dividend at 1.85p. Fisher operates in difficult markets and the four-fifths growth in first-half profits from European food processing bears out its strategy of concentrating on value-added areas. The moves should help narrow the focus of the business but its remaining fresh produce and seafood operations remain prone to the vicissitudes of nature and hig store groups. Profits of £41m before exceptionals would put the shares on a forward p/e of 12. Fair value.

The Old Lady lifts her skirts on the Internet

CITY DIARY JOHN WILLCOCK

The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street is on the Net. The Bank of England began pub-lishing information in its own

Internet pages yesterday. A spokeswoman said that by four o'clock in the afternoon the site had had "quite a few visitors". Anoraks all over the world - and normal people - will be able to learn about the Bank's history, its bank notes, impending publications, courses for central bankers and so on. "It's full of fascinating insights," the spokeswoman said - a trifle hopefully.

Even better news from the Bank of England, It is also planning to construct a comfy new reception area for visitors - instead of leaving them to the series of cold marble benches that present-

ly do the job. One of the old banking halls at the Threadneedle Street building will be con-verted later this year, if everything goes to plan.

Accountants Ernst & Young referred to the 1688 Bill Of Rights to win a VAT case last week on behalf of BT Rumours that tax cases will henceforth be decided by trial by ordeal are said, however, to be unfounded.

SBC Warburg has lost yet another senior corporate finance executive, just a month after losing two other directors to rival banks. Philip Yates. SBC Warburg's joint head of UK corporate finance, has jumped ship to join Merrill Lynch in its

Wilf Dixon, a director of Executive Protection, a security firm,

was recently doing research on construction company John Mowlem plc. He noticed that one its trading names, Mowlem

Civil Engineering, had been struck off the register, and was up for grabs. He registered the name for himself for the £90.50.

Mowlem, which is understandable, since companies routinely

He said he may use it later this year if he goes ahead with

plans to build a US-style walled community of executive homes with controlled access. The subject does not amuse

drop old names and register new ones for housekeeping.

are said to be more transaction- and product-driven than the traditional Warburgers. SBC Warburg will have none of this, but Mr Yates was certainly doing some important deals there. He helped advise Bank of Ireland on its £600m takeover of Bristol & West Building Society, and Cordiant's £133m rights issue and refinancing. What's more, Mr

Ropemaker Place offices off the City's Finsbury Square. Last month Nicholas Fry, another senior SBC Warburg corporate financier, defected to NatWest markets, while Stella Coulthurst went to BZW. Sources predicted more defections then because of culture clashes with the new Swiss bosses, who

Going for gold: The Bank has cast its net farther affeld

Yates is an Oasis fan. All to-gether now, "You've got to roll with it ..."

Sir Brian Jenkins is blossoming as chairman of the Woolwich, one of the building societies which plans to convert to bank status. Yesterday Sir Brian, a former Lord Mayor of London and distinguished accountant.

made a joke.
At Woolwich's AGM yesterday a venerable gentleman member, dressed in a large felt hat and thick overcoat, rose during the "any questions" session and said to Sir Brian: "I hear on the BBC's Radio Four that we are going to get £1,000 each [when the society converts]. is this right?"

Sir Brian said the situation would be made clear at a later date. The member then said: "Is it near to £1,000?" The chairman said they would make sure it was as much as possible.

As the rest of the membership started to shift impatiently in their seats. the questioner ploughed on, and asked why former chief executive Peter Robinson had been sacked two weeks ago, to which Sir Brian replied: "I think you should listen to Radio Four." The audience collapsed.

House of Fraser to unload weak stores

NIGEL COPE

eral of its underperforming department stores in a restructure that could see the disposal of DH Evans, the well known Oxford Street store in London.

The announcement came yesterday as the company announced a dramatic 50 per cent slump in profits to £14m due to continuing stock problems and

Brian McGowan, the chairman who last week appointed the former Texas Homecare chief John Coleman as the

the high-profile American David Dworkin for the top job but eventually decided to ap-

"I like Dworkin very much. He talks a lot of sense, he's a good retailer and I think I could have worked with him. I also think we could have agreed a remuneration package that would have been acceptable to the City."

However, Mr McGowan said he had chosen Mr Coleman.

group's new chief executive, better man for the job." He American ruled himself out under poor stock control and DH Evans is a candidate as it also admitted for the first time added; "I realise I will have to before the job was offered. It is buying problems, which have is surrounded by more such as the state of the control and DH Evans is a candidate as it buying problems, which have is surrounded by more such as the state of the control and DH Evans is a candidate as it buying problems, which have is surrounded by more such as the state of the control and DH Evans is a candidate as it buying problems, which have is surrounded by more such as the state of the control and DH Evans is a candidate as it buying problems, which have is surrounded by more such as the state of the control and DH Evans is a candidate as it buying problems, which have is surrounded by more such as the state of the control and DH Evans is a candidate as it buying problems, which have is surrounded by more such as the state of the control and DH Evans is a candidate as it buying problems, which have it buying problems, which have it buying problems, which have it buying problems. He dismissed comments by

some in the City that not appointing Mr Dworkin, the forpoint Mr Coleman instead. mer chief executive of Storehouse, was "the worst mistake" of his career. "That's absolute rubbish," Mr McGowan The House of Fraser chair-

man met Mr Dworkin in London and at Mr McGowan's home in Colorado. Mr Mc-Gowan maintains he was turned down by no one, although there "because I thought he was the is a feeling in the City that the

only accept the position if the most permanent sale. company declared further provisions to cover excess stock,

prepared to countenance. There is a credibility gap here," one analyst said. Mr Coleman joins at the end of the month when his priority will be to appoint two new

which Mr McGowan was not

merchandise directors. House of Fraser, which operates 51 department stores in-

recent weeks were 4.5 per cent 174p. Mr McGowan admitted that

the group's sales per square foot average of £173m was still lamentable, with the worst stores achieving lees than £100. The cluding Dickins & Jones and target is £200 per square foot Army & Navy, is still labouring and the laggards will be closed.

and John Lewis.

Around £21m of old stock In the year to January profits of £14.3m were struck on flat has been carried into this year. sales of £749m. The dividend was maintained at 5.5p. The Gross margins has declined by 1.6 per cent. However, the company said like-for-like sales in shares rose 2p yesterday to

Elsewhere on the high street, the fashion retailer French Connection is also struggling. Its profits halved from £7m to £3.4m last year due to trading problems in the US and Europe, though trading has improved since the year end.

	Turnover E	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Laura Astriey (F)	337m (323m)	10.3m(-30.6m)	2.97p (-13.41p)	0.5p (nil)
Barlows (F)	2.93m (2.1m)	0.78m (0.41m)	2.94p (Z.04p)	2p (1p)
Hosensbury Pub (F)	11.4m (9.69m)	1.01m (0.85m)	7.8p (11.46p)	3.4p (2 64p
Redycote last (F)	80.4m (84.3m)	18.9m (15.8m)	20.9p (18.6p)	6.5p (5.75p
Heary Bott & Sons (F)	179m (184m)	8.69m (8.16m)	23.8p (22.8p)	7.5p (7.1p)
Cairo Energy (F)	21.8m (15.6m)	9.46m (9.39m)	. 11.77p (7.72p)	nii (nii)
Cassell (F)	23.2m (22.6m)	0.74m (0.83m)	8.9p (13.1p)	4.5p (3p)
Edge Properties (F)	1.1m (0.95m)	-1.04m (-0.8m)	-24.1p (-22.1p)	nil (-)
Era Greenp (F)	77.3m (74.6m)	1.0m (1.31m)	Q.34p (1.36p)	0.1p (mil)
Albert Fisher (I)	828m (756m)	-24.0m (12.6m)	-4.14p (1.01p)	1.85p (1.85
artune Oil (F)	93.0m (59.2m)	2.17m (1.11m)	0.2p (0.1p)	nii (-)
reach Connection (F)	70.7m (70.5m)	3.43m (6.85m)	10p (23.2p)	2p (nil)
iouse of France (F)	748.9m (7\$4.7m)	14.3m (28.0m)	5p (8.2p)	5.5p (5.5p)
aciosos Group (F)	78.6m (78.6m)	1.1m (0.85m)	3.2p (2.6p)	2p (1.8p)
Nice Group (F)	14,6m (12.4m)	0.82m (0.47m)	0.31p (0.29p)	0.12p (-)
MC Group (F)	4.61bn (4.16bn)	342m (283m)	81.4p (66.3p)	25.3p (23p)
itydo (F)	199m (165m)	3.86m (6.52m)	6.45p (11.49p)	4 660 (4 66
VEW Group (1)	67.5m (72.7m)	-3.44m (5.81m)	-2.44p (2.41p)	all (-)

Cottage holidays with AINDEPENDENT

scape to the countryside for a Spring break with The Independent and the Independent on Sunday Cottage Holiday offer. We've teamed up with Blakes Country Cottages to offer readers the opportunity to sample Blakes great family holidays in a selection of hand-picked properties for just £5 per person per

Blakes Country Cottages are one of the largest and most experienced cottage holiday companies in Britain, with a range of almost 2000 properties to choose from in the most popular parts of

This exclusive offer applies to 200 properties in 18 selected holiday sites, with accommodation ranging from a converted stable block, to the wing of a country house, to cosy woodland lodges. There is always plenty to enjoy, from peaceful walks in the country to riding and games rooms for the children. Simply ask for details when you call Blakes to book.

The offer allows you to stay for £5 per person per night and you must stay for a minimum of seven nights. Holidays can be taken between 20 April - 24 May 1996. Accommodation is suitable for parties of two to twelve. Accommodation must be booked at maximum occupancy, for example a party of four cannot occupy accommodation which sleeps seven.

HOW TO QUALIFY

Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven we will be printing until Saturday 20 April. Today we are printing Token 6.

HOW TO BOOK

- Call Blakes Country Cottages on 01282 445221 for a brochure and reservations, quoting the "Independent £5 per night offer".
- Give your advisor the following details: (a) Your preferred holiday area: North England, West Country, Scotland or Wales. (b) The number of adults and children on holiday.

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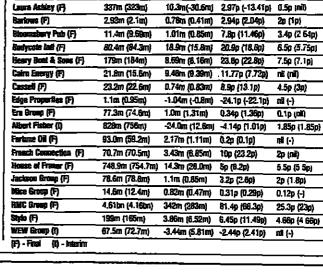
(c) The holiday start and end dates.

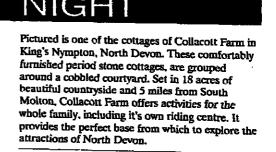
tion, facilities and accommodation.

 You will then be offered a choice of suitable
 You will be asked to send your tokens with your properties and will be given details of the loca- cheque (made payable to Blakes Country Cottages) to: Blakes Country Cottages, Spring Mill. • If you wish to confirm your booking you will be Earby, Nr Colne, Lancashire, BB8 6RN, If you asked for full payment by credit card or cheque. are paying by credit card, your advisor will tell you

where to send your tokens to.

 Please note, you may book immediately before you have collected your four tokens, but you will require the tokens for final confirmation of your





TERMS & CONDITIONS

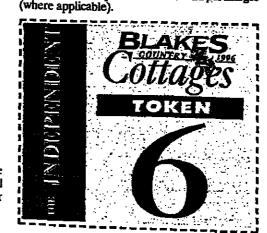
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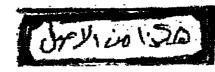
2 Over 200 units of accommodation are available per holiday week.

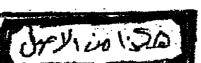
3 Units must be booked at maximum occupancy, e.g. a party of four cannot occupy a unit which

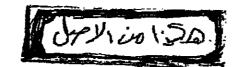
4 Holiday must start and finish between 20 April and 24 May 1996.

5 Blakes Country Cottages, the name of which is used under licence from Blakes Holidays Ltd., is a trading division of Holiday Cottages Group Ltd. 6 Normal terms and conditions of booking apply. These are published in Blakes Country Cottages brochures and are available upon request. 7 Prices exclude optional insurance and pet charges









with National Power the leg-

endary boys in dark glasses

have alighted on another po-

distinction of being the latest

The domestic bidder was

said to be GEC, a theory no

doubt inspired by the pending

departure of Lucas chief ex-

tential takeover victim.

market report/shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100 3820.7 +15.1 FT-SE 250 4493.6 +29.5 FT-SE 350 1927.2 +8.7 SEAQ VOLUME

987m shares, 40,753 bargains Gilts Index

candidate. In hectic trading the shares surged 20p to 224p, touching 232p. American, Ger-man and UK bids were rumoured to be on the horizon. There was also more mundane talk that it was about to sell its SHARE SPOTLIGHT aerospace side.

> ecutive George Simpson to -Lucas was not the only company to excite the stock market as stories of corporate action swirled around. Busy trading lifted the FT-SE index 15.1 points to 3,820.7

After their astonishing success peak of 4,493.6 with the German interest rate reduction

helping sentiment. other share to shine. It jumped 24p (after 28p) to 546p on sug-gestions the huge merger with BT had, excluding regulatory Lucas Industries had the requirements, been settled.

BT put on 6.5p to 379p. Christies International was again back in the corporate frame. The auctioneer climbed a further 7p to 226p (after 231p) as the market indulged in speculation about the intentions of near-30 per cent shareholder Joseph Lewis, an immensely wealthy Bahamasbased investor. He has carefully put to-

gether his commanding share-holding leaving the market puzzled whether he intends to oid for control - or sell his stake to a potential predator. Mr. Lewis could, if he so

wished, produce the £300m or group, enjoyed another out-standing session as US bid



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter

of the year

Boys in dark glasses alight on Lucas as takeover target

score in the 1970's London leisure boom he is reputed to have become a billionaire

through currency trading.
Utilities were back in the spotlight with London Electricity powering ahead 28p to 813p on talk of a bid from Thames Water or one of the US utilities. A price of 900p a share is the popular guess. National Power, which has attracted the attention of the Southern Co of the US, rose 10p to 588p with the partlypaid up 9p at 453p. PowerGen gained 5p to 604p with its partly9paid 4p firmer at 463p.

sentiment continued to swing Micro Focus, the computer in favour of the proposed demerger. NatWest Securities was said to have picked up 10

takeover stories continued to raise a sweat. Once again turnover was significant with many hardened operators convinced a bid - from Bass, Hilton Hotels of the US or the latest runner, Scottish & Newhopes continued to circulate. gaining 303p to 1,168p. The castle - will materialise soon. shares were 680p at the start Pearson, the banking and media group which is another

million shares at 196p. Lad-

broke added 5p to 196p as the

long-time bid favourite, jumped 20p to 739p.

The drug-happy pharmaceutical pitch produced another crop of plusses. Scotia Rolls-Royce was another to purr ahead, up 9p to 237p, a peak. SBC Warburg was positive and an analysts visit to its US operations is due next week. There is talk the US trip jumped 46p to 709p on reputwill be accompanied by news of substantial engine orders. ed Lehman Brothers buy advice and Celltech, where talk Reuters, the information group, advanced 23.5p to 777p on rumoured ABN Amro

of a bid is growing stronger, added 22p to 580p. Cortees In-ternational rose 23p to 357p. Vision, the miniature cam-Hoare Govett support and Hanson rose 4.5p to 196p as era chip maker, added 5p to 239p. It is expected to announce a share placing with today's figures and possibly a tie-up with Fisher Price toys.

Hoare Govett's small company technology team, using turnover as the main measurement, has, it is said, produced share targets for a number of hi-tech groups. It decided shares of Acorn Computer had a value of 350p against a market price of 216p; MAID 270p (208p); Psion 1,250p (1,018p, up 78p) and Virtuality 350p (245p).

Symonds, dropping engineering from its title to un-derline its electronic operations, returned to market at 71p. The shares were suspended at 61p. For the £11.5m acquisition of Zlin, a maker of printed circuit boards, the shares were valued at 50p. Metal Bulletin, the pub-

lisher, drifted 30p lower to 915p as, instead of the rumoured bid, the company announced it was buying 49 per cent of Seanet for £1.2m. It provides information on shipWater Hall, where Rachid Abdullah has control, is thought to be on the verge of According to stock market rumours it is near to buying a leisure business, largely in exchange for shares.

Formerly called Starmin, the group has had a difficult time and has made no secret of its desire to get out of its traditional aggregates and laudfill businesses. The shares held at 1.5p.

Mice, the conference and exhibition group, firmed to 5.5p after a 73 per cent profit advance to £817,000 and a year's dividend of 0.12p, 25 per cent higher than last year's prospectus forecast.

Around £1.2m is expected this year. Chairman Mike Curley is looking for acquisitions and is talking to

and sent the supporting FT-SE wished, produce the £300m or 250 index surging 29.5 to a so for a strike. Since failing to

25 Substantial Color Part Mediands (1985) 1985 | Substantial Color P

Your eyes couldn't scan

this page as quickly as

fax machine

The Canon L600 scans up to 3 times faster than a standard fax machine.

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: or Exciption x Excluded to Exall u United Securities Market a Suspended. The independent index The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seart Simply dial FT-SE 100 - Real-time 00 Starling Rates 04
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Procrastination could save the day for Eurotunnel pands | Industry view | Ind

Channel traffic is looking up a bit but there will be little progress to report on the negotiations with the company's banking syndicates over £8.1bn of debts on which interest has been suspended.

After a dismal year, they will be treated to the usual knockabout stuff from Sir Alastair Morton. the perennially optimistic co-chairman, who has always insisted that the board has no intention of handing over the company's equity to the

As one of the signatories to a Panglossian rights issue prospectus that lifted £858m of new money out of shareholders' wallets in 1994, 15 months before the company in effect went bust, Sir Alastair's new-found role as shareholders' champion must leave some of them with rather mixed feelings, to say

At 71p, the shares are worth little more than a tenth of their value in early 1994. Agreement on a solution to the company's problems has also been receding steadily, despite Eurotunnel's efforts to get the lead banks to agree the outline financial reconstruction plan it has

drawn up. When the crisis began last September, some of Eurotunnel's banks thought it would take six months to negotiate a deal and another year to push the agreement through the whole 220-strong banking syndicate.

How optimistic can you be? Seven months into the negotiations, it looks unlikely that an outline agreement with the banks will be con-



cluded before the summer holidays, so that means a delay into the autumn at the earliest, since most of Europe packs up in July and

August. Even if the original guesstimate that a further year is required to get all the 220 bank lenders to sign proves correct, the reconstruction may not finally be agreed before

The problem is that the nearer Eurotunnel moves to a formal sign-ing by the whole syndicate, the higher the hurdles become.

Every single bank in the syndicate must vote yes to the refinanc-ing. The temptation for individual banks to demand special conces-sions in situations of this kind is

renegotiations of their syndicated

Eurotuanel did exactly that, so only a majority bank vote was needed to approve its 1994 bank refinancing and rights issue. Unfor-tunately, once Eurotunnel stopped paying interest, the loan agreem reverted to a requirement for 100 per cent approval.

In some rescues, banks have preferred long negotiations because they have allowed them to spread bad debt provisions over a number of years while profits are

earned to pay for them.

This is probably not a factor with Eurotunnel, whose international lenders have made substantial bad debt provisions already, ranging from 20 to more than 50 per cent.

Aggressive price-cutting on duty-free has paid off in increased traffic

When Rupert Murdoch's News International was refinanced a few vears ago, his empire was nearly destroyed because a single small American bank threatened on the

last day not to sign. So potentially serious is this blackmail problem for any corporate rescue that the Bank of England spent several years persuading large companies to put majority voting into the contracts governing

NatWest, one of the four lead

banks, is thought to have provided £40m of its £100m exposure. From the lead banks' point of view, the fundamental cause of the delay is simply the difficulty of agreeing a proposal that has a chance of satisfying the diverse in-

terests of a syndicate of 220 lenders. nancial shocks. Nevertheless, delay does have some useful side-effects. A view is growing among the banks that, tion of its interest. As for the

be more reliable.

(Those who expect Sir Alastair will depart then, because his contract runs out in October, are jumping to conclusions, because he has been asked by the board to stay on until negotiations are complete.)

Results this spring have certainly been looking good. Eurotunnel's poor marketing has shown signs of improvement and aggressive cut-price tactics on duty-free have been paying off in increased traffic.

Perversely, the better the fore-

casts for future years the more the banks are likely to push for a big-ger slice of the cake and larger fees (to add to the £200m they have aleady earned.)

That might explain why Eurotunnel is auxious to persuade the lead banks to approve its own restructuring proposals sooner rather than later

The deal it wants is not a conventional corporate rescue in which debt is swapped for some form of equity, with the alternative probably a receivership. Eurotunnel's preferred solution

is a flexible structure that allows long-term revenue sharing. The company should from now on produce a positive cash flow, over and above operating costs, but excluding debt interest and repayments.

The idea is to persuade the

banks to continue to underwrite the

250%

150% 4125%

10yk yleid 1 6% 638 10,15% 9.17 10% 10,37 6% 6,69

project, absorbing any further fi-As revenues increase, Eurotunnel would pay a higher propor-

95.23 1943 1943 1106 53.77 62.81 96.84 96.84 96.85 96.

76-75 96.79 72-45 71-45 90.98 90.92 96.83

Liffe Financial Futures

Liffe FT-SE Index Option

shareholders, at some as yet un-

predictable moment in the next cen-

ry, there would be money left over

It is likely that, given a gener-ous enough share of the surplus revenues, the banks will agree

question is whether these inevitable delays in the negotiations actually matter very much to them.

The answer is probably not. It simply will not make much difference because the prospect of divi-dends is so far into the future. On that it is pointless taking over the some projections, compounding of

law is more sympathetic to the rights of shareholders - the message the banks took from the Eurotunnel board's decision to set in motion the appointment of mediators under French law. If this were an ordinary rescue,

Sir Alastair would be seen by now to be wearing the emperor's clothes: proclaiming how well cov-ered his loans are while everybody knows he is completely naked and that the shares are worthless,

But Eurotunnel is not like any other refinancing. There is no doubt at all that in the long term the business itself will continue to operate, whatever happens to the bankers and shareholders.

And in the short term, there is little point in forcing the issue because nothing can be resolved until the company's commercial prospects are clearer. In the circumstances, a certain amount of procrastination probably benefits everybody.

Piglids issue Wornes grow **announced**

A wipe-out of shareholders' interests would cause banks political troubles

shareholders' equity. Such a move interest would prevent Eurotunnel's would be largely symbolic. There is, after all, £8.1bn of debt and only £700m of equity, and a wipe-out of shareholders' interests would cause the banks a great deal of political trouble, especially in France, where the majority of the shares

Long-suffering as the shareholders have been over their investments in Eurotunnel. the

revenue ever catching up with the payments to the banks.

As for receivership, it would only make sense for the banks if they thought they could find a better management to run the remaining 57 years of the tunnel concession, and there is no sign so far that they want to do that.

A cross-border receivership would be messy, too, since French

Industrial Metals 1600-01 1350-60 2566-70 805-06 8080-85 9548-49 1051-52 Akererum Alloy Copper A 350-20 2627-09 512-14 as at Tuesday 16 April '96 **Precious Metals** 400.00 26455 Britannia 135.35 8845 Britannia.5 cz 406 202 100 51 Silver spot Gotd Built Agricultural LCE Stooms LCE #forms TESSO TIQUES TIQUE TI TIQUE TIQU 36620 33480 32630 2965 1460 1385 205 1448 44175-42975 CSI Indices
Other Softs Says Oliş Fl./100kg Coconut Oil (†) S/lonne Sunflower Oilo S/lonne Repessed Oli§Fl./100kg Groundhut Oil S/lonne

Foreign	Exc	hang	e Rate	es				Intere	est R	ates				
Sterling				Dollar			D-Mark	UK			nany		US	
Country	Spot	1 month	3 गाठवरीक	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	Base	600%	Disc		250%	Prime	8.75%
eUS	15075	8-G	21-18	1000	_	-1	0.6613	France		Lomi		450%	Discount	500%
Canada	20512	11-3	50-37	1,3607	2-1	2-0	08999	Intervention	n 3.70%	Can		70-01	Fed Funds	525%
Germany	2.2795	53-46	159-149	15121	27-25	84-81	10000	Italy '		Prim	_	700%	Spain	
France	7.7316	140-118	371-340	51288	64-57	164-154	33918	Discount Netherian	900%	Disc		500%	10-Day Rep	פעבונו פ
kaly	23708	75-90	221-245	1572.7	57-54	170-182	1040.04	Advances	270%	Disc	merk Nerk	325%	Sweden Rapo (Ave)	7.60%
Japan	15201	75-70	225-218	10747	45-44	136-133	710733			LASC	<u> </u>	34379	паро (лев)	120079
ECU	12170	15-11	45-40	12388	7-8	23-25	0.5338							•
Belgium	46808	12-9	34-29	31050	6-5	18-16	205344	Bond	Y iek	S				
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Netherlands	25488	68-59	197-184	16908	35-32	107-102	1182	UK .	800%	749	844	802	Notherlands	9%
treland	0.9662	9-5	25-20	15603	3-6	6-10	0.4238	LIS	51/%	638	54%	657	Stein	1019%
Norway	98287	116-64	329-233	65199	42-17	110-60	4.3118	Janzen	64%	209	31%	328	Rety	101/%
Spain	18990	26-36	72-89	125.97	23-27	64-72	83,3080	Australia	87/%	8.76	10%	902	Belgium	77/%
Sweden	10.159	9-15	23-34	6.7393	98-123	260-310	44569	Germany	57/%	537	6%	644	Sweden	11%
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Extra Income GBI & Fad Inc	1349 5693	144.3	d48	Convertable	1432	523	506	Euro
income	551.2	5882 632.3	8.25 4.62	(Accum Units) Emerging Market	3040 s 7247	323A 77A3	508. 900	Euro Anne
income Builder	6994	7481	653	(Accum Units)	72.73	77.7	000	Hon
inti income Growth Trusts - I	7 <u>152</u> ISK	7609	256	European .	1447	1584	0.36	1000
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RECOVERY	4868	6206	265	(Accum Units)	3799 591.2	4041 6289	376 376	Lang
Smilr Cos Acc Smilr Cos Inc	65,44 56,41	70:16	199	Prancial	1610	1713	d0.41	UK
Special Sta	3845	8049 411.2	198 133	(Accum Units) Git Trust	1712	1821 6487	d041	UKE
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Japan & Gen Act Japan & Gen Inc	1679 1880	1779 1758	_	Japan & Gen	1913	2033	4000	Inde
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Bering Pund Mar PO Box 631, 189 Bi	ishtnenets			(Accum Units) Monthly Income	132.5 1909	1395 2031	\$1.53 \$4.58	Gart
London ECZM 315				L CENTER AUGUST	57.44	6158	432	Med
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American Smir C		179.9	90 90	(Accum Units)	3728 4401	3951.7 470.7	006 605	UKE
Convertibles Enstern	61.23 - 329.5	65.67	d49	UK Growth	66.36	70.58	207	Ame
Equity Income	9671	3556 1034	03 35	(Accum Units)	7021	74.5	207	Jepá Euro
European Growth	360B	3832	Ō.B	Friends Provider Enterprise Hee, let	OC LUMBE TIMESER IJ	inmegere '-		Person
Europe Select Exempt	3311 1949	3523	19 30	Portsupouth Hente	POT 7AW			Inde
Exempt Flood Into	1020 Here	103.2	80	Enquiries: 01705 9 FP Managed Po	81346 Deeling: 1	17 05 B 81:	330	Depo Eme
German Growth	6736	92.45	05	Capital Gwith Ag	r 13830 Logist States	5640	121	Pacif
Global Bond Global Growth	7041 1502	74.08 160.0	65 04	Open Capital Ge	rift Acc 132,80	14120	0.16	Brok
Japan Growth	216.0	2305	80	Cap Gwth wince (Accum Units)		28.20	246 246	SN/H Brian
Japan Sunisa	1770	1895	00	Open Cap Gwrth	12810 w loc horzekón	13430 12970	244	Do 6
Korea Trust Portiolio	8004 1462	8722	00	(Accum Units)	128.90	19540	344	Breat
Porticijo Acc	2737	1567 2534	23 23	FP Unit Trusts FP American	8984		000	Da (
UK Growth	9906	106.5	26	(Accum Units)	86.78	6365 71 0 4	0.36 0.36	Shee
UK Smeller Cos Select Managers	9445 8954	1028 9844	d2.5 d10	FF Amer Smit C	os 205.30	21748	000	Gove
Charity Fund		-044	010	FP Agian Growth		32370	0.00	4 Best
Overseas Gwith E		7756	Ō3	(Accum Units) FP Australian	31430 418.20	33590 44570	0.00 0.00	THE OT
Commercial Unix	on Trunk Mary	gers		(Accum Units)	47280	50740	000	ÜKS
Prestige Porticil	o (PFT Funds) _		FP Euro Oth	272.90 29850	290.30	d022	Britte
income Funds Equity Income	185.64	107/48	d485	(Accum Unite) FP Equity	23850 45180	31750 48080	0.22 2.47	Arner Jeps
Equity Income Ac	c 692.04	73621	485	(Accum Units)	97950	1042.00	247	Gree
Fixed & Consent Fixed & Corner Ac	sie 41,08 = 12500	43.70	d8.65	FPAM Inst UK Sin	Co hs10640	1114Q 1714Q	193	Pacif
Monthly Income P	Tan. 4884	13734 5196	∂885 ∂8£2	(Accum L/nits) FP injumational E	10640 30nd 6068	1714U 6429	193 484	} Europ Inst G
Warthly Income P	Tus Acc 5260	55.96	d862	(Accum Units)	163.80	17330	484	UST
Preference Share Preference Share		49.71 306.46	d8.02 d8.02	FP Intl Garte	3914 57.5	41.77 80.99	036 036	FT-8
Balanced Funds	_			(Accum Units) FP Pacific Basin i		251.50	036	Moni
High Yield	13469	W329	65.95	FP income	5894	6383	4.00	ÜKS
High Yield Acc	60805	646.63	d535	(Accum Units)	202.60	216.15	489	MES

	B5400	Rely(oγ.cena, Lira)	23360000	Switz	erland(Fi	ancs)	17850	Livestock 19	70=100	1844	4 -	02
	24650		n(Yen)	161.0000		y(Lira)		700000	Precious Metals 19	73=100	4965	3.	OU
	70800	Malta	(Lin)	05320	Unite	d States(Dollars)	14750	Source Goldman Sach	1107080	in a backer	st ard se	ė.
				L	at.	est	: U	nit	Trust	Pri	ce:	5	
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	Sell	Buy	Yid	Stock		Sell	Bay	Yid	Stock	Self	Buy	YM	-
SII	39450	34610	0.00	Hong Kong Ind	ex		£18434		Dividend	4590	48.50		1
iOn	75,59 132,40	80.67 141.30	45.58 5.56	Hong Kong Be		\$3.8301 CORRES	284909 2844436	350 475	(Accum Units) Equity Income	1999 3683	211.6 280.0		-
	10030	12030	4535	Japan Index		\$TL8872	C12,5808	000	(Accum Unite)	4866	514.7	488	1
	11360 19981	113 <i>80</i> 95.79	5.35 0.50	US index Cash		£16,7631 £9,5671	ESE350	350 325	(Accum Units)	81B.D	67\$3 8651	0.85	1
	90.72 42.08	96.76 46.25	000 d250	UK Beer Japan Beer		26.3768 227051	286707 226211	475	European Divisiend (Accum Units)	6290 1030	87.70 108.9		ſ
	SL22	6E07	2.50	US Beer		E/U265	27/210	350	Extra Yield	452.6	4982	d4.81	ı
	195,60 388,20	205 <i>5</i> 0 414.00	247 247	Doller Buil Doller Bear		215,2014 28,5270	CABB87	350 475	(Accust Units) Fer Eastern	1523.5 408.3	1511.1 429.7	d491 105	ł
	420.50 523.40	447230 656.80	169 189	GER Bluf GER Beer		2112946 088588	P118991 C72382	475 475	(Accum Units) Fund of inv Tata	5420 7119	5732 7528	105 183	Į
	8214	6736	467	Legal & Gener	al (UT				(Accum Units)	1352.5	14303	183	1
	11030 12430	117:30 132:00	067	; 5 Reyteigh Rd, H	ulkie, E	Deathgr	, Essex	2704	General (Accum Unite)	6890 2032	7390 2150		1
	13310	14150	0.57	. Cash Accum		58.05	58.05	687	Gitz income (Accum United)	6021 17546	90.30 175.7	72 72	ŀ
40	ers			Equity Dist Equity Actum		<i>572,60</i> 1186,00	50910 124000	d2.56	Gold (Accum Units)	8720 1038	92.20 1085	0.07 0.07	1
	on ECSR (only: Ol		571	Equity income UK Tactical Alic	entien	10610 65.19	112.80 69.23	444 6394	High Income	33.30	3520	455	1
7	-			European		143.40	162,60	109	(Accum Units)	1361 9530	1472 1008	4.55 0.65	1
	5398 14352	6406 143,52	18\$ d536	Far Eastern Flood Interest		26150 52.73	26790 5610	d727	(Accum Units)	1674 1129	1772 1194	065	l
	124.16 292.81	132.79 313.17	d2.58 d2.58	Gilt Global Growth		87.73 88.07	63'03 63'69	d665 025	improstional inc (Accum Units)	176.7	1659	0441]
	17690	177.78	dist	ini Bond		5548 78.89	5881	531	Japan & Gen (Accum Units)	4430 4750	4670 5010		ì
	17146	183,38	083	Japanese North America:	1	20720	63.93 220.20	084	Japan Smaller Cos	1560	1649 1861		ł
	23.92 34.68	24.78 36.94	d799 512	Pacific Growth		13030	138.40 7904	d007 d294	(Accum Units) Menaged Growth	1573 2730	2920	162	ı
	57/2	198.56	307	UK Recovery UK Smaller Co.		118.10	120.30	d190 109	Mereged Income Midend	3030 6580	31.60 69.40	6406 6321	Ĺ
,	3033	3144	(55	UK Stockmarks	E ACC	68.50	88.80	179	(Accum Units) Pension Ex	2277 10910	2408 1116.3	432i 439	1
	4953 15483	53D8 16470	d000 d126	US Index European Index		8156 <i>816</i> 2	86.70 86.70	139 175	Recovery	5030	63.20	257	ļ
	28.88	195.70	0.83	Japan Index Workfwide		44.40 99.84	48.86 106.00	140	(Accura Units) Second General	8460 7860	89,50 8330	257 336	l
	25048	15048	140	Lioyde Bask U	ait The			M	(Accum Units) Smaler Cos	2105 7400	222.7 7830	3.76 335	l
	96.22 184.84	20857 14276	0.92 0.77	Mounthalten Hou Tel: 01634 153600	58. Ch	dan Ke	L ME4 4	•	(Accum Units)	151.5	1623	315	1
	203.22	21566 17845	000	Balanced inc		40050	42620	242	Tressury Trussee	25.5 44.10	25.21 46.60	4595 4469]
	155.87	17758	177	Belanced Acc Confl Europe G	r inc	935.00 80.45	99470 8469	2.42 0.53	(Accum Units)	1573	1984	\$4.88	1
	284.54 248.91	28123 26408	000	Cord Europe G Batra income in	r Acc	86.58 284.30	9134 30250	053 396	Martin Corrie Unit 7i 20 Caste Terrace,	wa Lp			Ĺ
Str	atogy Pu 25967	mda 25967	d200	Extra income A		76440	843.20	396	Edinburgh, EH1 2ES Tel: 0131 229 5252, Dea	One. 0131 (70 4546		1
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	226.80 29748	226.80 287.49	4800 2A7	German Growt German Growti		138 <i>8</i> 0 145.30	14580 15300		Europeen (z) Incoms	8442	8982	438	1
	177.76 218.33	177,76 316,33	187 d101	Growth Portical Growth Portical	o inc	657300 67650	69800 71970		Nth American (2) Rer East (2)	92.85 \$2.3	9560 2041	0.52 0.05	ĺ,
	164.73	14473	4000 096	High interest in	7	84.87	6632	d7396	Japan Emerging Markets	68.20 63.76	7028 1003	þ	H
	34705 17934	34705 17834	268	High interest As income inc	æ	97:35 543:10	100:90 677:80	796 c8.30	inti Growth	1338	142.0	60.71	H
	16278 579.79	167.76 379.79	659 8000	Income Acc Income Portice	n Inc	153000 155670	182600 59230	330 439	UK Growth Asian Opporantiles UK Smaller Cos	1213 4273	128.5 45.70	2.38 0.25	ı
	270.61 132.63	27081 13283	0.73	Income Portion	ACC;	61090 117300	64990 12450	430	LIK Smaller Cos Global Growth PEP	81.40 82.67	65.52 66.52	143 101	1
	16239	15219	022	Japan Growth I Japan Growth /	lcc	117/40	12490	_	Newton Fund Hanes	ers Liid			ı
mi	220.97 18781	22097 15751	120 156	Mester Trust Inc Mester Trust Ac	2	68,47 77,90	7285 8277	U7 27	71 Queen Victoria SI, Li Calenta 0500 550000 Bri	indon EC4: Skar 0580 8	4DR 60007		1
nen/	18403 10951	15403	450	American & Ge American & Ge	n inc	29920 27560	25450 29430	003	Dealing 0000 440000 American	5489	5816	000	ı
Pe	12216	nds 12995		Am Sm Cos &	tec Inc	200.80	213.70 213.70	_	American Acc .	8611 9890	58.83 105.21	000 234	ı
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	83.22 148.33	88.63 55.67	:	Small Cos & R	IÇ Aca	682.50 250.80	71850 17110	150 d2.74	Buropean Foundation	5495 10845	5514 7537	000 d247	{
	6930	7350	•	UK Equity Grow UK Equity Incom	ne ne	125.40	13450	d407	General	22043	254.50	158	ſ
	143.76 85.81	152.94 91.25	-	UK Growth Inc UK Growth Aco		103.40 128.60	71030 138.80	195 185	Globel Growth	39019 14367	4503 12284	d034 d242	l
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	8034	53.55	-	Premier Exempl		15774Ü	17500	297	Higher Income Acc	3720	3868	d467	l
	65.48	58.99	•	Lloyds Exempl European Acc		22080	229.60	1.53	income International Bond	26066 12686	27730 13482	63A1	l
16	18435 7 ₁ 74	27300 7686	4049 080	For Eastern ACC Japan Acc	,	78.95 63.91	8307 5643	161	Japan Japan	14278 2993	148.71 30.78	327 000	L
•	75.58	78.75	060	North American	Acc	23730	24680	156	Origințăi Acc	17848	189.85	0.49	
e	63.08 69.38	6657 7319	d350 d350	LIK Equity Acc LIK Smalt Cos A	~	288.30 146.40	301.90 155.60	306 187	Oriental instatte Personal trai Gwith	17295 3750	183,29 3688	Q49 doób	
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	op 5E) 2			Amer & General		\$281	6580	0.26	Thiophone: (0191) 263 2	555			1
	10307	110.23	6436	(Accum Units) Amer Recovery		65 339 6758	6973 6087	036 033	Rock Managed Northern Rock High in	1144	1211 9060	. 216 408	
	95.20	8971	60.58	(Accum Units)		6632	7013 1768	033	Pembroka Administra	ction List			ļ
:		74.24 29939	273 000	Amer Smir Cos (Accum Units)		1672 1709	1806		37-41 Bedford Row, Loo	don WÇTR	LIH:		
,	72.5Q 200.4Q	7784 21432	Q.D.C Q.19	Australianian (Accum United)		2008 2503	2123 2645	202 202	Telephone & Dealing: 01 Posturate Growth	254.00	24888	d148	l
	172.25	18421	000	Capital		967.1	10439	278	Pembroke World Acc. Pembroke Salanced	8482 21131		d000 d2.24	H
	771.70\$ 17300\$	7929 1851	648 000	(Accust Units) Charlived		11691 1702	1230) 7790)	279 586	Pembroka Eq Income	12405	131.27	4330	s
		190278 9946	400 217	(Accum Links) Commodity		3819.7 645.7	38579 5781	5.66 0.19	Perpobati Unit Trust I Perpotati Has	Angent Ltd	I		S
_		44.25	GBL00	(Accum Links)	_	1083	8625	039	Healey on Thispes				Ì
	42168 E1 11253	T092	d4.75 000	Compound Grov (Accum Units)		1102.6 1196.3	1198.0 1254.5	291 291	Tel: 01431 417000 International Gwith Inc.	710.00	759.07	E40	
_	0171 88	5 0023	- 1	Committe Book		2448	SLAS	-776	International Custs See		70/104	D49	

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Co. (Close as of 17 April 1996	1	casy origin - †Philipines	in pioneets.	"Malayete ""N Escape Sc
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inc 47792 Stuff 041	(Accum Links)	98.20 10192	083 083	Stewart Ivory Un 45 Charlotte Sq. Ed
Ace 478,71 51,89 041 Inc 312,08 332,62 0.01	Euro Smir Cos (Accum Units)	109281 11668 111.30 118.25	0.24	Desitog & Enquirte American
Act 812.08 332.62 0.01 c 180.00 182.24 0.06	Fer Esseem Gertin (Accum Units)	1971 12799	000	(Accum Units)
c 180.72 192.90 0:8	Gift & Fixed Interest	122.03 130:5 50.84 53.58	000 d727	Sirttish (Accum Units)
int 302.77 32382 001 Acc 302.85 32402 021	(Accum Units) Global Bond	74.6 76.15 5332 54.89	d7.77 6.78	Emerging Market (Accum Units)
h Inc 33199 35597 063 h Acc 333.20 35637 063	(Accum Units) Globel Ether Mits	8154 6359	6.78	Europeen
1207 1987 6285	(Accum Lints)	5964 53.61 59.72 53.70	4000	(Accum Units)
130.37 128.74 2.65 112.67 11587 3.79	income (Accum Units)	47153 43896 136336 145426	6500 6500	(Accum Units) New Pacific
231.95 24794 d001 22 23196 24794 001	Japan Smilr Cos	475.69 50740	0.00	(Accum Units)
14804 15824 083	(Accum Units)	476.84 508.42 74.13 79.07	0000	(Accum Units)
5026 5234 782 c 14939 15878 005	(Accum Links) Pacific Gretin	7423 7907 16933 18061	d000 039	Mingd Equity Mingd Equity Acc
ce 149,74 160,96 0.05 Cos inc202,84 217,05 0.07	(Accum Units)	17540 15709	039	i Winod Cash
Acc 202.94 217.05 0.01	(Accum Unite)	53.23 56.77 53.23 56.77	000	(Accum Units) Son Life Troop Mi
5764 6068 d563 10732 11479 145	Simular Cots (Accum Units)	29130 310.50 343.97 366.90	0.92	PO Box 1810, Deat
C 11292 12078 145 6390 5390 559	Tokyo	13721 14835	0.92 d0.00	Bristol B\$19 53N Ecc; 0171-606 4044
th Inc 3423 3662 0.81	(Accum Units) UK Enterprise	13659 14783 38670 35214	d000 197	Armer Growth Acc
th Acc3435 38.74 0.31	(Accum Units) UK Equity	411.14 438.54	197	Cap Protector Inc Cap Protector Acc
37267 38658 2.74 32652 34865 DD4	(Accum Units)	598.49 638.39	239 239	Distribution inc Distribution Acc
ada Lid	US Smir Cos (Accum Units)	233.04 248.57 233.04 248.57	000 000	Emerging Markets
4, Essez, IG1 201. 4594 4780 173	Portfolio (Accum Unite)	95.80 102.18	176	For East Great Acc
10160 10210 4.89	Institutional Funds		1.78	Jepen Growth Aca Mnod Extra locar
11980 11738 489 10552 10934 635	Europeen (Accum Unite)	29213 303.03 328.20 340.50	126 128	Mingd Extra Incom
TIBLES 12194 B.35 10812 17502 177	Euro Smir Cos (Accum Units)	3634 3784	121	Mingd Growth Acc Mingd High Yield Y
c 9336 9931 442	Global Equity Inc	94.20 BB12	121 6090	Mingd High Yield A Mingd Inc & Gith in
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93:5 9909 526 226.17 242.73 063	(Accum Units) Mod Belanced	41.22 42.83 225.92 235.33	0.07	Pacific Growth Port
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238.95 24761 000 238.43 26707 1.25	Oversetá Equity (Accum Units)	230 <i>8</i> 3 240.23 240.88 250.97	108 108	UK Income Acc UK Smeller Cos
12864 13123 064 4742 4935 668	(Accum Units)	152.95 158.32 161.16 167.88	095 095	Thomson Unit Ma
11235 15852 139 12863 15873 265	Pacific	302.76 315.37 335.64 348.62	d1D1	Seen (foose, 33 Que Tal: 0171-245 3000, 1
14879 15615 229	(Accum Linits) Recovery	2370.24 2469200	2101 281	Drescher Europe (
curities Lid	(Accum Links) (IK Index	2572.40 2679.56 284.5 \$1.61	281 3.27	(Accum Units) European
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8984 99.89 d3.17	(Accum Unks)	136.16 143.93 151.69 158.01	247 247	(Accum Units) Global Emerging M
1508 1904 4896 5209	US Swir Cod (Accum (Ints)		d0.59 d0.59	(Account Chart)
1497 1593 d196 2003 2151 106	Singer & Principader	ine Product and		Japan Ta: (Accum Units)
1326 1326 d541	21 New Street, London, E Tel: 0171 867 8777, Deal	(2)의 사람 NT (1)가 CN (400)		Little Draggne
8622 7109 150 1688 1786	American Growth Aziac	12812 12812	d	(Accum (Inite) Nih Amer Gwin
119.7 1273 40.49 43.04	Europeen	6840 6840 16439 16439	d d	(Accum Unita) Oriental Income
1622 1728	Global Bond Samurai	9248 B248 5215 8215	d8.56	(Accum Unite) Preference
2330 2478 030 9436 1004 155	Sterling Reserve	10025 10025	dena d	(Accum Units)
71.43 75.88 010 154.7 1579 3.53	UK Growth	TT1.45 1TL45	d2.24	Tiger (Accum Units)
56.25 5610 602 274 2584 0.88	UK Emerging Leaders Preferred income	11301 11301	0289 0354	(Accum Units)
4790 4290 7.76	UK Equity Income Investment Trust	11444 11444	dB.26	UK Grounts
1950 1438 . 2570 2734 388	Singer & Friedlander I	TISTO 16173	d191	(Accum Units) UK High Yield
2561 2748 d5,04 1331 1418 391	European Trust For European Tot	65 <u>67</u> 9(2)	103	(Accum Links) UK Mid-Cap
170.7 180.2 (5.88	Global Growth PEP	76.56 80.38 77.68 82.83	0.25 139	(Apourn Units)
2412 2586 d0.74 1919 2041	Preferred Income	5690 6053	500	UK Smir Coe (Accum Units)
1949 2073 8604 8269	Smaller Cos	2679 2849	1650 199	UK Smaller Cos Div
3944 4198	Standard Life Unit Tru POSox 141,1 Tenfield_Edit page:12777			(Accust Unite)
66.50 66.63 0,64 1 4055 437.4 1,15	000039777	marge EHOSKG	- 1	Key
380 3735 182	Standard Life Fung M Global Advantage in:		_ }	d exot
1805 1707 0.55	COOR ACCOMMON Law	4782 9LB7 5133	173 173	e extro
2544 2513 d3.35 6964 63.45 039	Income Adventage Inc Income Adventage Acc	36.99 36.7	#3.40	buy forme
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5971 6952 126 2089 2222	UK Eq High Inc Acc	40.43 42.86 52.91 56.09	d4.83	reports and so available from
1638 TPL) 40.67	UK Equity Gen Acc		430	LECTIONS
s Litd Victorie Street, London	UN Equity Gen inc Gir & Fad int inc	5517 58.62	257	
	Charas Long Cost Acr.	30,77 3254 6	695	A more extens
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Stewart Ivery i 45 Charlotte Sq. Dealing & Enquir	Edinburgh E Nac 0131 22	H2 4HW 6 3271			
American (Accum Units)	6	312	5672 8693	:	
Arttish (Accum Units)	24	1519 2	3560 5640	290 290	
Emerging Mark (Accum Units) European	1	575	168.8 169.6	087 067	
(Accum Units) Japan	7	712	731.7 8210	086 086	
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Accum Units)	3	050 :	3234	083 083	
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(Accum Units)		658 275. i	9557 1429	549 549	
Son Life Troops PO Box 1810, De	Mingent Litel et APD.				
Bristol B\$19 55N Ecc; 0171-606 40	44 Doslinas	D171-60	6 601 0.		
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Jepen Growth A Mnod Extra Inc.	400 T20. Ombline 34	104 T	27,44	000	4
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Dunlop can stop the Sham bandwagon with Najiya

GREG WOOD

From the very pinnacle of racing's power structure, right down to the shop floor on the high street, a lot of people have a great deal invested in Bosra Sham, and in the space of 90 seconds at Newbury this afternoon, they will get a shrewd idea of just how large the return is likely to be.

There are the breeders and auction houses operating at the top end of the market, who would love to see the most expensive yearling of 1994 demonstrate that sometimes you really can buy success. There are the advisers - probably including Henry Cecil, her trainer - who persuaded Wafic Said that 530,000gns was not too much to pay for Hector Protector's sister. Cecil too, of course, would like to put his falling out with Sheikh Mohammed behind him and start the season with yet another Classic winner. And then by Blue Duster, Bosra Sham's there are the punters, who have most serious rival in the antespent the last three weeks propelling Bosra Sham towards odds-on for the 1,000 Guineas.

Those backers may reflect this morning that to lose one bot Classic favourite is unfortunate, but to lose another, following Alhaarth's defeat in the Craven Stakes yesterday, would

If the Newmarket gallops watchers are to be believed, the punters have nothing to worry about, as most will stake their reputations on Bosra Sham winning the Guineas. They are

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Corradini (Newbury 5.15) NB: Carburton (Newbury 3.40)

hardly betting with the world's strongest currency, however, and Bosra Sham's supporters will still approach her seasonal debut in the Fred Darling Stakes somewhat nervously.

And even if she prevails, they will check her proximity to Najiya, trained by John Dunlop, very closely. Najiya was third, beaten five and a half lengths post Guineas betting, in the Cheveley Park Stakes last scason. It will thus be possible to pick holes in anything but a

comprehensive success. Given Dunlop's record in this event, however, it is perfectly possible that Najiya (3.10) will not only get within striking distance of Bosra Sham, but will beat her too. Throughout her two-year-old career, it was clear that Najiya would be a much better animal at three, and with Dunlop's string in excellent form, she is definitely a value bet against the favourite.

Not that Cecil is exactly struggling for winners at present either, with his latest success being provided by Storm Trooper in the Feilden Stakes at Newmarket yesterday. Storm Trooper strode away from his opponents in some style, and is now no better than 20-1 for the Derby.

The success gave Pat Eddery his sixth winner of the meeting and maintained a monopoly in the race for Cecil. He was recording his fourth win in the last five years in this nine fur-long Listed contest, following Twist N Turn, Placerville and Cicerao. The Warren Place trainer also captured the prize with Legal Bid in 1987, but it must be said that none of that quartet went on to achieve high ranking so a degree of caution might be useful in assessing prospects for Storm Trooper.

evening between Cecil, the colt's owner, Fahd Salman, and the owner's racing manager, Anthony Penfold, the Classic potential of Storm Trooper will also receive an early test in the 2,000 Guineas. The colt, a reg-ular gallops companion of Bosra Sham, is quoted at 20-1 by William Hill for the Guineas. Lionize, a maiden winner

for Peter Chapple-Hyam later in the afternoon, is another who may be a late arrival in the field for the colts' Classic, but he remains an outsider at 33-1. Such ambitions are way be-

youd the reach of Galine, winner of yesterday's opening handicap, but the success was a welcome one for Bill O'Gorman, whose daughter Emma was injured in a fall at the track on Wednesday. "I think she was in pain again this morning but I don't think this will be long-term." O'Gorman said yesterday. "It is nothing hor-

2,000 GURNEAS (Newmarket, 4 May): Corat 13-8 Afraerth, 9-4 Seauchamp king, 6-1 Moni Of Esteem, 10-1 Royal Applicases, 14-1 Danehill Dancer, Ladbrokes: 2-1 Afraerth & Beauchamp King, 8-1 Mark Of Esteem, 10-1 Danehill Dancer & Royal Applicase, 14-1 Storm Trooper, Williams Hills 6-4 Afraenth, 5-2 Beauchamp King 10-1 Mark Of Esteem &



Storm Trooper strides clear to win yesterday's Feilden Stakes at Newmarket

Photograph: David Ashdown

NEWBURY

2.10 Daylight In Dubai 2.40 Set Adrift 3.10 Bosra Shan 3.40 ASHJAR (map)

HYPERION 4.15 Alaiyal 4.45 Jayannpee (nb) 5.15 Corradini

GOING: Good.

STALLS: Round course – inside: Straight course – centre.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers may be best for 5f to 1m on straight course.

Eleft-hand course, SE of town near A34. Railway station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Memhers £13; Tamensails £8; Silver Ring £3 (OAPs half price). CAR PARE: Prec.

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: P Chapple-Hyant - 32 winners from 121 runners gives a success ratio of 26.4% and a loss to a \$1 lovel stake of \$2.62; J Gooden - 31 winners, 116 runners, 26.7%, +558.34; R Hannon - 31 winners, 404 runners, 7.8%, 4.203.20; R Chariton - 17 winners, 101 runners, 16.8%, +54.12.
■ LEADING JOCERYS: J Reid - 42 wins, 234 rides, 17.9%, -516.15; L Dettori - 38 wins, 192 rides, 19.5%, +588.00; Pat Eddery - 37 wins, 225 rides, 16.4%, -532.22; W Carson - 32 wins, 193 rides, 10.1%, -549.81.
BLINKERED FREST TIME: None.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Eagler To Please (2.10) sem 233 miles by J Berry from Cockerham, Lancs; Zigny's Duncer (4.45) sem 204 miles by E Alston from Longton, Lancs. LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: P Chapple-Hyans - 32 v

2.10 BECKHAMPTON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 270 5f 34vds

CLASSIC MYSTERY (Gary Catchpole) B Meethan 9 0	В
DAYLIGHT IN DUSAN (USA) (P D Savil) P Chapple-Hyam 9 0	K
DR WOODSTOCK (M Meade) M Meade 9 0	RP
EAGER TO PLEASE (The Totally Original Partnership) / Beary 9 0	
GRANNI'S PET (Mrs D M Arbib) P Cole 9 0	T
GROVEFAIR FLYER (Grovefair pic) B Meetran 9 0	NT
HANGOVER SQUARE (Bob Laterrant) R Harmon 9 0	RHa
LUCAYAN BEACH (Bran Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 9 0	
PELHAM (D A Luce-Smith) R Hannon 90	Pag E
PETULA BOY (Clark Industrial Services Partnership) M McCormack 9 ()	R Coc
RARE HEY (Lord Leverhulme) R Johnson Houghton 9 0	
REFERENDUM (Histoisee Thoroughbred Record Ltd) & Lewis 9 0	
YAMAYAMAYAND (C Wests) G Leves 9 0	
- 13 declared -	

BETTHE: 7-4 Daylight in Dubal, 100-30 Grammy's Pot, 5-1 Pellium, 7-1 Referendum, 15-2 Enger To Please, 10-1 Classic Mystery, 14-1 Hangtover Square, Roten Hay, 16-1 others 1995: Poish Legon 2 9 0 L Demm 7-1 () Gosden) 13 ran FORM GLIDE

PORM GUIDE

Peter Chappie-Hyam has a fine record with his jurch. The Manton trainer, whose Carmine Lake easily landed the odds at Newmarket on Thursday to provide him with his first two-year-old success this term, can click again here with DAYLIGHT IN DUBAL. The US-bred was a 130,000-dokar yearing and is out of a good winner-producing mane. Paul Cole is another whose younguists do well here and Graming's Pet, a 46,000grs so of crack miler Sellerh, must also be kept on the night side. He is half-brigher to the winners Western Sel and Western General, the dam being half-seiter to Queen Anne Stakes victor Mr Fluorocarbon. Billio and Rude Auskening have stready shown that Geoff Lewis's juveniles are well forward and the Epsom trainer runs Referending (Paul [Eddery) and Yanakansanano (Tory Whetan). Referending is a hull-brother to three winners including Sweet Decision, a winner at two. Richard Hannon is also doubly represented - by Pelbami (Pat Eddery) and winner at two. Richard Hannon is also doubly represented - by **Pethain** (Pat Eddery) and Hangover Square (Richard Hughes). Selection: DAYLIGHT IN DUBAL

17	4 01	PEIER SMITH MEMORIAL MAUDEN SPAKES	
	<u>. Ty</u>	(CLASS D) £5,100 added 3YO 1m 3f	THE PERSON NAMED IN
1		AIR QUEST (K Abdullah) R Charlton 9 0	Pat Eddery 7
2	5	EWAR BOLD (13) (A Richards) C Britain 90	
3	•	MOHAWK RIVER (Shelith Mohammed) M Stoute 9 0	HEB 5
4		SANTELLA CAPE (Roy Yasano) R Harmon 9 0	R Perhana 3
5		SET ADRIET (Lord Howard de Winiden) H Card 9 0	W Ryes 2
6		SALART PLAY (USA) (Mrs George Ward) Mrs / Cecil 9 0	î kas 11
7		TRESAL MOON IP D Savil Lady Hernes 9 0	K Declay &
8	60-	ASE OF REALITY (USA) (193) (High Prince Faind Seimen) H Candy 8 9	T Quine 10
9		ENERGY ED (Shelikh Mohammed) J Gossfen 8 9	
10	- 0	REMEMBER STAR (15) (Duckhasen Stud) A Newcombe 8 9	Carroll 6
11	2-	SMELAN N WISHEN (USA) (185) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8 9	Raid 4
_	_	_ 11 declared _	

- ... vocumet DET(BIG: 9-4 Set Adrite, 4-1 Air Quest, 5-1 Enriched, 7-1 Smille N Wishin, 9-1 Molecule River, 10-1
Tribel Moon, 34-1 Age Of Reality, Santella Cape, 18-1 East Bold, Steart Play, 29-1 others
1995; Tarrure 3 9 0 1 Detzen 9-4 (/ Gosten) 15 ran

Henry Cecil runs Seit Adulfit, a son of 1984 Derby hero Stip Anchor from a mare who has produced many warvers. The stable is already in cracking form and Set Adrift should go close though preference is for AIP QUEST. This cost is a full-brottler to Derby hero Quest For Fame, who got off the mank in this event in 1992. Earliched, a Generous filly, is closely related to a warver in Ghost Tree and comes from John Gosden's stable, which sent out Derby run-

net-up Tamure to land this risce a year ago. Peter Chapple-Hyem has made a good start this season and Smillin N Wishin, 13 lengths clear of the third when going down threequarters of a length to Cassic Eagle at Chepstow less October on her single stan so far, should not be found to the control of the cont

3.10 DURAI DUTY FREE FRED DARLING STAKES BBC2

	CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF
<u> 1142</u> 41-	FLYING SQUARY (231) (Michael A Foy M Channon 9 0
6010-	KEEPERS DANN (202) (Bob Langeri) R Johnson Houghert 9 ()
000-3	MESS UNIVERSAL (12) (Bernard Burt) C British 9 ()B Doyle
3113-	NAJIYA (206) (Harrdan Al Mattourn) J Duntop 9 0W Carton
120.4	PALOMA BAY (12) (Ms E A Hams) M Bell 9 0M Fenton
123-	PLEASE SUZANNE (209) (D) Mohamed Suhad) R Harron 9 0 Detted
1-	SRA MASQUE (NSA) (200) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9 ()
<u> 11-0</u>	SIL SILA (13) (CD) (L Ahanez Cenera) B Smart 9 0
	8.4

BETTING: 2-5 Bosze Stean, 5-1 Hallya, 8-1 Flying Square, 10-1 Silk Mass 14-1 Flence Suzusce, 16-1 Palouse Bay, 20-1 Sil Sila, 23-1 Keepers Day 1996: Aquand 3 9 0 W Carson 9-4 (J Dunkoy) 8 cm en, 10-1 SKk Mesque, 12-1 Miss Uni FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE
It is difficult to oppose not 1,000 Guinaas favourite, BOSRA SHAIA, who has wingared well
and been going great gans in recent gallops. News that this full-alister to Hector Protector
could go a bit preceded her debut here last August and, although faced with 21 mails, she
went off at 5-4 on and duly obliged – by three lengths. That was on good to firm and Bosra
Sham landed her only other race, the Group One Fillies' Mile on the soft at Ascot in Sep-Snam landed her only other race, the Group One Filties' Mile on the soft at Ascox in September, taking command approaching the furing pole to stam Birx, Shadayid three and a half lengths. Second spot can go to Neighya, who gained consecutive wins at Haydock and Salisbury last term and wound up with a third of five behind Bite Duster in the Cheveley Park. Her yard, successful with Beauchamp King in yesterday's Craven States, won this with Aquand 12 months ago, while stablemate Birtt Saleshi was proped on the post by Thrilling Day in Tuesday's Neil Gwyn. Flyling Squaw came to hand early last season, landing her first two races, at Sandown and Goodwood, while she was also successful on her final start as Group Two at Baden-Baden and, before that, was fourth to Danetill Dancer in the Group One Hentz 57 Phoents Stakes at Leopartistown. Miles Universal, although a 25-1 chance for the Massika Stakes at Kempton on Easter Saturday, finished thrip behind Sea Spray and Parrot Jungle, bearen e neck and a head with Palossa Bay more than two lengths adrift in fourth and Sill Silla seventh of 13. Despire running green. Silk Masque, from the same yard as Sea Spray, won narrowly at Goodwood last July on her only appearance to date and comes from a stable which does well at this track.

•	-		
		3.40	SCOTTISH EQUITABLE RATED STAKES (CLASS C BBC2 HANDICAP) £8,500 addled 3YO 1m
	1	55210-	POLAR PRINCE (189) (Mrs Christine Stevenson) M. Janes 9.7
	2	A0216-	TSARNISTA (168) (I H Stewart-Brown) J (Juniop 9 7 J Reid 1
	3	311-	CARBURTON (1811) (B H Fam) J Glover 9 5Paul Eddery 4
	4	04022-4	DECISION MAKER (17) (The Boardsoom Syndicate) R Harston 8 13, Date O'Nell (5) 3
	5	50620-4	THEREEA (22) (Pay Guide, Colin Lews, Malcolin Carrent) B R Milman 8 8T Quien 6
	6	2441-	ASHUAR (USA) (179) (Herndan Al Makroum) H Thomson Jones 8 8
	7	050-	LITTLE MALLE (183) (7 X Peacel P Hayward 8 7F Lynch (5) 7
			= 7 declared -

BETTIME: 9-4 Decision Maker, 11-4 Centraton, 4-1 Ashjar, 5-1 Teamista, 6-1 Polar Prince, 8-1 Ther-Non, 25-1 Little Millie 1995: Crumpon Hill 3 8 1 Paul Eddery 12-1 (N Graham) 14 ran

1995; Crumpon Hill 3 8 1 Paul Eddery 12-1 (N Garbarn) 14 as
FORM GUIDE

The lack of a recent race may not matter too much here with only a couple of the seven
runners having had an outing this season. CARBURTON is fanced for a successful return.
Jersmy Glover's number, a creditable third of 20 berlind Ocean Grove on his linconduction over
sk fullning at Noting-ram last September, justified favouritism in both his races afterwards
– staying on strongly over seven at Haydock (maiden) and at Doncaster (nursery). Carburtion wat be well at home over this male, acts on both fast and soft ground and Paul Eddery,
on board for all his three races, is again in the saddle. Devision Malaker, runner-up in the
last two of five status last term and a good fourth behind High Baroque at Nottlinghem on
his return, might provide most danger. Potar Prince won a maiden at Haydock in Septemer on his peruftimate start and was harmored in the closing states when in the juck unhis return, migrit provide most danger. Frame Printed work a magnetia in the route
4.15 BRIDGET MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added

310 /ī	•
ALASYAL (Hermisen Al Maleirum) P Walleyn 8 11	
AURITY DINE (Paul H Lockel B Hals 8 11	
BOMBAY SAPPHINE (PT Talkingto) R Hannon 8 11	R Perhent 13
COVERED SERL (N.) Legge) B Hale 8 11	
DESERT SKRAWER (USA) (TF Hants) M Bell 8 11	
DIVINE QUEST (Lady Howard do Waldern) H Cool 8 11	Pat Edday 1
ENTY COASTING (USA) (Crag B Singer) P Coto 8 11	
NOWTOW (Trevor Barker) M Usher 8 11.	
LARISSA (Sheith Motammed) G Water 8 11	
LUNDA (Speed Margora) C Bottom 8 11	
POMOBIA (Styline Racing Ltd) P Maion 8 11	
SANDHILL (K. Abdullatr) J Gyrsten 8 11	

GOING: Good to Soft.

SIS J.

Selback, Hereford & Wores.

13	SATIN BELL (Nicholas Jonest J Dunjop 8 11	R Huthe
14	SHALATESHO (G Palmer) M Channon 8 11	
15	SHRE (The Queen) I Baking 8 11	
16	TAKING LIBERTIES OR E Sangaten P Change Hum 8 11	
17	WHISPERED MELOCY (Mrs PW Harrs) P Harris 8 11	
-	- 17 declared -	

SETTING: 5-2 Diviso Quest, 9-2 Taking Liberties, 11-2 Sandhill, 7-1 Luriesa, 10-1 Alalyal, Aunty Jaco Setta Bell, 12-1 Desert Skimmer, Etny Coasting, 14-1 Coverad Girl, 15-1 Pomona, Stipe, 20-1 oth

ent. 1995: Tarhino 3 & 11 W Carson 13-8 (J Gosden) 19 ren

Poter Walkyn has an excellent record in this event and, with the stable running into form, ALALYAL might show the way home in this 17-runner event for debutarits. A daughter of top-class miler kins, she is out of the Northern Dancer mare Yaquit, dam of winners in Anam, Estimates and Tabida. Henry Ceal has won this before and Dakine Quest, another daugher of kins, is a full-aster to smart French speciater Dwine Dance and half-aster to pursuit. Of Love, Aunty Jame, a Distant Relative filly, is half-stater to the winner Alisa Jame and could figure, together with Peter Chapple-Hyam's Taking Liberties (a Royal Azademy filly), John Gosden's Sauchilli (a daughter of Danehell) and Geoff Wragg's Larlessa (by Soviet Star and the first foal of the same stable's good stayer Piptina).

Selection: ALAYAL

4.45 NEWBURY RACECOURSE SHOPPING ARCADE RATED STAKES

_		(GENOS D INNOCAT) ZEGUÇU BEDEL SI SHYUS
1	20600-0	DARWS DESTRY (27) Dars Am E M Wingto N Burle 597
2		BRAVE EDSE (188) (D) (Horrs Vale Racing) R Harmon 5 9 6
3	001112	SPANGARDS CLOSE (183) (2) (Ason Industries Lim) P Makin 8 9 4Part Eddery 12
4	62540-0	LENNOX LENTS (9) (0) (Ns Ann Janes) A Janes 4 9 1
5	364000-	JAYAWAPEE (196) (D) U Paricos) Bairing 5 9 0
6	631003-	SONDEN ROSE (177) (D) (Mrs. C.) Ward) M. Stanstvard 4.8.8
7	111230-	TOP BANANA (216) (CD) (Major M G Wyatt) H Cardy 5 88
8	11080-0	LORD HIGH ADMENU (28) (D) (Cite Pacing Club) M Heston-Elis 8 8 8
9	4200000-	LORD OLDVER (195) (D) (Mess V R Jeres) W Jeres 6 8 8
10	0-00110	ANZIO (11) (D) (BP) (Tommy Staurage) Miss G Kelleway 5 8 7
11	60561-4	ZIBRIY'S DANCER (USA) (20) (D) John Panci, Barryl E Alston 5 8 7
12	20042-5	SALLORMANTE (107) (BP) & R Sowing S Bowing 5 8 5
13	2000000-	HOW'S YER FATHER (185) (0) (Unity Farm Holiday Centre) R Hoolges 10 8 4 B Doyle 2
14	643603	TAFALHUS (7) (Roger Hewton) 44 Polesse 4 8 4
		MACFARLANE (11) (D) & Fetherson-Godley M Fetherson-Godley 8 8 4 J.Martin Dwyer (7) 8
		- 15 declared -

RETTING: 13-2 Lord High Admiral, 6-1 Speakards Close, 23-2 Top Bessers, 7-1 Jayo 1995: Royale Figures 4 9 0 W R Sweburn 12-1 (M Fetherston-Godley) 14 ran

FORDS GUIDE
This is a typically tricky Newbury sprint with several holding good claims. Brawe Edge was besten a head by Royelé Figurine in less year's renewal with Spaniands Closes and Lord High Adaptinal north and 12 of 14. Spaniands Closes went on to win his next three races and ran a three-length second behind Domulta here in October on his final start - Bowdess Rose ran a three-length second behind Dornuta here in October on his final start - Blowdes Rose dead-heated for severith and Lannox Lewis was lead of 15. With Pat Eddey bodded, Spaniards Close may do best of the tro who contested lest year's race but TOP BANANA can best them all. Henry Candy's five-year-old lest season when he challed up a summer hat-trick the last two was coming over course and distance. My selection was bestem three parts of a length by Shikan's Son in the 27-numer Stewards 'Cup and, although 100b worse in, can confirm that form with third-placed Jayampee, who was a short-head behind. Both should again hold Brave Edge, How's Yer Parther and Darling Destiny, who were all in arrears. Top Banana dright get the best of runs when taking mysor honous behind Oouble Blue and Lennox. Lewis at Ripon next time and he can turn around that numing, while he wasn't discredited when 14th of '29 from a bad draw in the Ayr Gold Cup on his final start - Salformatics, bord Ottwier and Derling Destiny behind. Ando wor on the Lingfield Equitrack in February and at Doncaster - by four lengths in a field of '21 - four weeks ago but did not show the same op at Kempton on Easter Monday, fireshing a disappoining nine-length initio of 25, with Macharlane 19th.

	5.15	THATCHAM STAKES (HANDICAP) (CLASS C) £7,69 to stakes 2m	50 added
1	012-	CORRADNO (1983 (K. Abdullah); H Cecil 4 10 0	Pat Eddery 5
2	40000-1	SHADIRWAN (28) (D) (Che Bat) R Alenual 5 9 5	7 Quina 7
3	2/000-34	GOLDEN ARROW (13) (Paul Mellon) Balting 5 8 13	L Dettori 8
		KADASTROF (FR) (6) (A P Paton) R Didon 6 8 13	
		CYPRESS AVENUE (13) (C I Scenoer-Philips) R Harmon 4 8 13	
6		JOHANS ACT (USA) (5) (C) (Llack Brown (Bookmakers)) D Hayth Jones 689	
ž		KANINAZE (932) Many B Generalium J White 6 8 0	

1.8-1 Cyproco Aronno, 12-1 John's Act, 20-1 Kamilgazo 1996: Boic Goit 4 9 10 D Hamson 4-1 U Farehome; 10 van

SHADRWAN trotted up by five lengths in a field of 20 at Doncaster four weeks ago and, despace being raised 11th, can go in again. That amount extra would not have stopped him on Town Moor. Witney-De-Bergerac was a 33-1 shot in the Queen's Prize at Kempton but beat all except Warn-splantstree and can confirm form with Budden Arrow (more than three lengths back in fourth and 45b better off) and Cypress Avenue (13th of 18). Henty Cecil had four winners at the Crawen meeting and the lightly reced Corradini could prove troublesome even if he is on 10st in his first handicap.

Selections SHADIRWAN

3.05 HILLHOUSE QUARRY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 4f

2-2F11F OLD SRIDGE (22) (D) A Turnel 8 11 10 _____S MeNell

3.35 HAMILTON CAMPBELL ILPH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £8,000 added 3m 1f

- 4 deciared -BETTRIG: 4-5 Savoy, 5-4 Merija's Led, 14-1 Seeking Bold, 20-1 Temple

4.05 ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m

NEWBURY 2.40: SET ADRIFT, from a stable three-year-old maiden colts, can hold the well-bred Air Quest.

3.10: The winter favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, BOSRA SHAM, has plenty in hand of these rivals on all known form, being particularly impressive when winning the Fillies Mile at Ascot. She has the speed to drop back to this trip, comes from a stable in top form and has been working impress vesterday's Newmarket winner Storm Trooper. Silk Masque, from another stable that has made a bright start to the season, is likely



the favourite home.

another improves in Carburton.

nh, 1/2. (P Nicnollis, Shepton Mailet). Total: £5.20; £1.60, £3.60, £2.20. DF: £43.60. CSF: £141.37. Tricast: £644.47. Trica £41.70. Placepoi: £24.50. Quadpoi: £14.50. Place 6: £32.31. Place 5: £26.87.

3.00: 1. LAGO DI VARANO () Carroll 7-2; 2. La Suguet 100-30 fav; dead-beat 3. John O'Dreams 20-1; dead-beat 3. Sea-Deer 9-2. 10 ran. 1¼, 1¼, () Berryl, Tota: £4.90; £1.60, £1.40, Sea-Deer £0.80, John O'Dreams £1.70. DF: £7.90. CSF; £15.18. 3.30: 1. AL SNAFA (N Dates) 9-2; 2. Kap-pellera 33:1: 3. Taurian Boy &1, 9, ran.

3.30: 1. AL SHAFA (K Obrieg) 9-2; 2. Kap-tellera 33-1; 2. Taufan Boy 6-1, 9 ran, 9-4 fav Fusan (4th), nl, 2½- U Durilop). Tolar £5.40; £2.00, £6.10, £1.60, DF; £191.00, CSF; £105.15, Trosst; £942, 77, 4.00: 2. NASHAAN (R Cochrane) 11-8 tay, 2. Jackson Park 9-2: 3. Burnt Offenting 9-1, 7 ran, 3, nk. (D Morley), Tolar; £2.50; £1.80, £2.40, DF; £7.00, CSF; £8.83, 4.30: 1. INDEEL COV AU Apple 5-2.50

4.30: 1 UNREAL CITY (W Ren) 5-2; 2. Henry Intend 11-2; 3. Catambella 4-1. 15 ras. 2-1 for Refreen (470, 1-14, 44. (H Cectl) Totes 53.0; 61.30, 61.40, 61.90. DF: 65.50. CSF: £19.10. Tota: £12.50. 5.05: 1. CHADWELL HALL (J Edwards 5-12. All Short 12.1.3. Remove Mills.)

5.05: 1. CHADWELL NALL (I Ethnunds) 51: 2. Able Sheriff 12-1: 3. Peanny's Wishing 20-1. 13 ran. 2-1 fav Stand Tall (4th), hd, 24-2. (S Bowling). Total: E6.10; £2.40, £3.00, £3.90. DF: £21.90. CSF: £60.97. Theast £1,060.68. The £280.80, 5.38: 1. WDDM (K Darloy) 6-5 far, 2. Fourdaned 4-1: 3. £228. 20-1. 14 ran. 17-4. 7. P. Charlott, Yadas 24.00. £1.0. £5.00.

(R Charlton). Tota: £2.10: £1.10. £1.90. £6.70. DF: £5.90. CSP: £7.78. The: £106.00

RACING RESULTS

NEWMARKET 2.00: 1. GALINE IS Sandess 8-1; 2. Wild-wood Flower 7-1; 3. Weetznam's Weigh 9-1. 15 ran. 5-1 fau Domak Amaam (40); 4; nk. (WOTGoman, Newmariest). Tobic £12.40; £4.10, £2.60, £2.50, DF: £37.80, CSF: £61.59. Treast: £488.40. Trio: £194.50. Non.

2.35; 1. PRIZE GIVING (M Hits) 9-1; 2. Three Hits 6-1; 3. Select Faw 11-4. 10 rsn. 9-4 fav Jackson Hijl (5th). 3, 14., (G Wregg, Newmarket). Tota: £10.90; £2.60, £2.10. \$1.60. DE: \$44.70. CSE: \$54.88. Torast

2-1 (sr, 2. St Manes 14-1; 3. Jack Journings 14-1, 11 ran. 4, 1. (H Cecl., Newmarkst). Tote: £3-10; £1-50, £3-80, £5-20. DF: £32-10. CSF: £28-69. Trio: £249-20. NRS:

58.80.
4.10: 1. LIONIZE () Rend evens fav; 2. Mip-tadama 2-1; 3. Prime Light 10-1, 5 Ras, 114, 31s, (P. Chappie-Hyam, Manton). Tota: 51.90; E1.50, £1.30. DF: £1.80. CSF: £3.09. NRs: Gold Spats, Hammerstein & Lone-

iy Leader.

4.45: 1. FLETCHER (T. Quinn). 13-8; 2. Rude Awakening evens fav; 3. M. T. Vessel.

40-1. 6 ran. 1/4, 9. (P. Cole, Whatcombe). Total:

22.40; £1.30, £1.10. DF; £1.40. CSF:
£3.34.

to make large strides after having raced and won only once, but Na jiya, third to Blue Duster in the Cheveley Park Stakes, may chase

3.40: ASHJAR progressed with every run last season and can hold

34:, 7. (G Richents, Greystoke). Tote: £3.60; £1.90, £1.30, DF: £4.90, CSF: £9.94, 4.20: 1. PORT TM A STORM! (Mr C Borner) 4-1; 2. Locknagrain 5-2; 3. Montrares 9-4 fav. 5 ran. 2, 14:. (M Hammond, Mid-dleham). Tote: £6.20; £2.20, £2.00, DF: £6.50, CSF: £13.06. 4.55: 1. OTTOMA (A P McDoy) 6-1; 2. Cats Ron 33-1; 2. Newhorn Polet 3-1 fav. 11 ran. N. 2; P Nicnolis. Shepton Mallet). Tote:

RIPON
2.30: 1. STATESMAN (K Darley) 9-2: 2. Roman Imp 4-1; 3. Double Action 11-2: 10 rais, 7-4 fav Plan for Profit (5th), 1st, 1st, (M Channon), Tote: £5.20: £2.00, £1.80, £1.70. DF: £27.00. CSF: £24.63. Tho: £28.50. After an objection by the clerk of the scales for the jockey fashing to weigh in, there was an amended result: Bolero Boy, third pass the post, was disqualified and placed last. 3.00: 1. LAGO DI VARANO (J Carroll) 7-2; 2. La Stiquet 100-30 fav; dead-beet 3.

ESZUV, CSF: 22.05. IN: 24/97.01 Nes. Kala Sunnsa & South Salem. 3,40: 1. EEAUCHAMP KUNG U Red 9-2: 2. Albaarth 1-2 fay; 3. Polaris Filght 25-1. 5 ran. nk, 3-%. U Dunlop, Anndell. Toba: £4.60: £1.50, £1.10. DF: £2.10. CSF:

23.34. 1. MUCHEA (R Hughes) 8-11 fav: 2. Herecomestheknight 3-1; 3. Echt To Rio 7-1. 4 mm. 3/n. 1/n. (M Charnon, Upper Lambourn). Tota: £1.90, DF: £1.90. CSF: £3.31. Jackpot: not won (pool of £32,600,71 car-ried forward to Newbury Indey). Placepot: £37.50. Quadpot: £2,20. Place 6: £19.31. Place 5: £3.35.

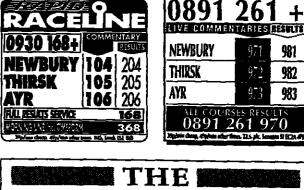
2.20: 1. THURSDAY NIGHT (L Wyer) 6-1; 2. Potter's Bay 5-4 tay; 3. Chipped Out 7-2. 10 ran. 1/4, 4. (J FitzGerald, Malton), Tote: £5.20; £1.20, £1.20, £1.70, UF: £5.30, CSF.

13.25. This £9.60.
2.50: 1. ROYAL JESTER (Mr C Storey) 52 for; 2. Carousel Rocket 9-1: 3. South-em Ministrel 9-1: 9 an. 24c, 10. (Mrs Jane Storey, Kelso). Totac £2.80; £1.10, £1.80, £3.70. DF: £10.10. CSF: £22.07. Trin:

£A5.60. 3.20: 1. ELPIDOS (R Garrisy) 7-4; 2. Shin-ing Edge 100-30; 3. Wiladom 9-1. 5 ran. 9, ½. (M Hammond, Middleham), Tota: £3.00; £1.20, £1.80, OF: £3,50, CSF: £7,60 3.50; 1. NENFA (A (Cobbin) 3-1; 2. Pins Gunner 5-2 fax; 3. Sunley Bay 9-2. 6 ran.

AYR







SATURDAY 8th JUNE 2.25pm

OUEEN'S STAND CLASSIC CLUB - 3 DAYS First hadge £90 - 2 more @ £75 each

Until May 24th - SAVE £10 £30 Club Enclosure £55 With reserved seat 16-25 year olds £24 - Morning dress not required -

Until May 24th - SAVE £3 Grandstand Enclosure £17 Groups of 15 or more

01372 470047 A WINNING COMBINATION

THE SA
HYPERION 2.15 Rambo Waltzer 2.50 Golden Pound 3.20 Double Park 3.50 Stolen Kiss 4.25 Clerkenweil 4.55 Primo Lara
GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course - inside. PRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f & 6f; low for 7f & 1m.

E Left-hand course, level but quite sharp.

E Course is W of town on Abl. Thirds station 1m. ADMISSION:
Club £12; Tratestalis 58 (OAPs £4); Partily Enclosure £3 (OAPs
\$1.50). Accompanied under-10s free. CAR PARKE Partily Enclosure \$1.50). Accompanied under-18s free. CAR PARK: Family Enclose 59 per car including up to four adults plus children; rest free-SIS PER

BLINEERED FIRST TIME: Gynaciak Hero (visored) (2.15). WINNEES IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Primo Lata (4.55) won st Beverley on Priday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Golden Pound (2.50) has been sent
285 miles by Mas G Kelleway from Whitescube, Dottet.

2.15 OAKSTRIPE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,650 added 1m Penalty Value £3,344

1 260161 MISTER CHARGER (11) MIS J Remailer 4 10 1 (8pt) 1 25038-1 MASSIER GENERIES (L.1) MIS A PARTICIONE 1 10 4204 LEGAL ISSUE (20) W Haigh 4 10 0 ... P MicCabe (2) 13 3 35100-0 0 GENERIES (LID) (D) I King 6 9 11 ... R Lappin 17 5 6000-0 MCHEROMOE (LID) (20) (D) I Exist 6 9 11 ... S Sandres 8 6 10302- BOILIN FRANK (201) (D) I Exist 6 9 11 ... S Sandres 8 6 10302- BOILIN FRANK (201) (D) I Exist 6 9 11 ... M Stock 7 6006-05 MOSIE NEPTUNE (71) (D) W Musson 4 9 8 ... S Carter 12 8 501621 RAMBO WALTZER (S) (D) D Michols 4 9 6 ... Alex Gromes 2 9 31012-0 CHARDAM CHOICE (201) (D) A larve 5 9 6 ... I Where 14 10 03033-0 SPANSEN STEPS (24) M W Esstatoy 4 9 6 ... I Where 14 12 223413 AMESONEC VENTURE (10) (D) M Coopman 6 9 ... C Mandaly (7) 10

- 18 deciment -SETTRAC: 4-1 Plus Ridge Led, 5-1 Remire Waltzer, 6-1 Menter Churter, 7-1 Bolle Rust, 10-1 Legal Issue. Assessme Yesture, 12-1 others

2.50 BRITON RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 6f 32244 GRUER POUND (15) Mrs G Nelson 4 9 10 N Fallon 1
5 534 MANERS (USA) 224 W Hogges 3 8 13 W Woods 5
5 534 MANERS (USA) (224 W Hogges 3 8 13 W Woods 5
6 44 3330 BREETS FREST (190) M Johnston 3 8 10 J Weater 6
4 3330 BREETS FREST (190) M Johnston 3 8 10 J Edwards (7) 2
5 0025 CHALLE (191) J Bading 3 8 10 J D Smith (5) 3
6 005 SWERT GRIL (190) B Hits 3 8 10 J D Smith (5) 3

3.20 CLIFTON FILLIES CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £7,650 added 2YO 5f

3.50 HAMBLETON LIMITED STAKES (CLASS D) £5,500 added 5f

- 8 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Spileter, 11-4 Aughar, 7-2 Stolen Kles, 6-1 French Seit, 7-1 Pride Of Briston, 12-1 Here Course & Star, 18-1 others

4.25 SOWERBY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 30. AMCHOR VENTINE (195) S Woods 9 0...

102. BENATOM (USA) (200) H Cod 9 0...

103. GUARNINE ADMIRAL (11) C Wide 9 0...

104. CLEROPHMEL (15A) (11) M South 9 0...

1000. LEE STREY (USA) R Windler 9 0...

- 7 deciand -BETTIME: 5-4 Clerkmond, 6-4 Benatom, 6-1 Nayth, 12-1 Anchor Venture 20-1 Cherming Admiral, 33-1 Gool Lee Stery, Dispot Agenda.

4.55 BRDFORTH HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,350 added 7f

2.35 ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 60131 GENERATOR (25) (0) T (2010) 5 11 9 ______ Wyw 1-5245 CRONDING COD C Thorrish 6 11 2 ... GREAT GABLE (48) D ALTER 5 11 2. 0060 OUT BY (BOHT (43) 6 M Moore 5 11 2 ... 563 PEROSE U.D. (VZ) (29) D. Nictorison 6 11.2 _R. Johnson (3)
F. RAMBUSHMEKINGE (353) B. Macagar: 5 11.2 _____ 1804P SUPPLEME GENOTIN (49) JOH 7 11 2 463 BANESTOT WHOME (42) C P202 5 10 11 ____ B Spirey

463 BANESTOT WHOME (42) C P202 5 10 11 ____ B Spirey

NO STATE

HYPERION

2.00 Lottery Ticket 2.35 Penrose Lad 3.05 Five To Seven 3.35 Savoy 4.05 Dear Do 4.35 Moynsha House

I Left-hand galloping course; run-in 310yds.

■ Course is E of town on A758. Ayr station (half-hourly service from Giesgow) Lm. ADMISSION: Club 516; Grandstand 58 (OAPs half-price). CAR PARK: Free.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Moyaske Reuse (4.25) has been sent 362 miles by 6 Curley from Statchworth, Camba; Dear Do (4.05) sent 358 miles by N Henderson from Lambourn, Berks; Old Bridge (3.05) sent 356 miles by A Turnell from East Hendred, Oxon; Spaceage

Gold (2.00) & Supreme Genotin (2.35) sent 352 miles by J Ok from Whoghton, Wiks; Baronet (2.00) & Penrose Lad (2.35) sen

321 miles by D Nicholson from Temple Guiting, Glos; Lettery Ticket. (2.00) & Merilin's Lad (3.35) sent 304 miles by J Edwards from

200 FAIRFIELD HOUSE HOTEL NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS D) £3,750 3m 110yds

321222 DE JOSEDAAN (154) (D) W Conneignam 9 11.5 _R Dwar 042155 ONE FOR THE POT (10) (TD) Mis A Naugnon 11 11 0 - 8 deciared BETING: 8-4 Seronet, 7-2 Beld Account, 5-1 Lottery Ticket, 6-1 Grate 4.35 CARRICK COWIE TORRY CONDITIONALS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 2m 215229 STEADPAST BLITE (69) 110 New 5 11 1 32F4-3 CANNAN WALLEY (31) D Robertson B 11 0 E Callegium 253850 NEEP BATTLING (90) (D) J Golde 6 10 11 ___ K Beatley 1.795 CHINDAY'S SAGA (100) Liungo 6 10 9 561050 MARCO MAGNETICO (55) (D) 1 Dyer 6 10 7 A Union (5) ومنونا وأ.... SETENC: 5-4 Setember, 7-2 Partoe Lad, Septemb Geotia, 7-1 Cittatino, 10-1 Seelin Chanz, 12-1 Bargiot Landing, 16-1 others

Kiwis provide the first test for Walsh and Lloyd viated matches in Starjah, Ausviated matches in

measured pace of a Test series

in Bridgetown today. For both the West Indies and New Zealand, the two back-toback matches come as something of a novelty. The West Indies have not played a Test since last August at the Oval, since when they have had 19 of the abbre-

adjustment to the Test match style of cricket quickest that will do well," was how New Zealand's captain, Lee Germon, put it "It's a psychological attitude rather than a technical one and, in the two first-class matches we've had, we've struggled especially

and 394 runs - both have endured turmoil within the ranks of team and administration that has undermined performance and led to change of captains, coaches,

managers and board presidents. The New Zealanders have now had eight months under

Test experience, and coach Glenn Turner, the former Test

captain and prolific opener. As always, short of star players they have moulded into a solid if unspectacular team. predictably more proficient in the limited overs game. They

series here before losing 3-2. Any optimism they had coming into this Test has been appreciably diminished by injuries to all-rounder Chris Cairns, indisputably their most gifted and crucial individual, and fast bowler Dion Nash. Neither is fit

ating defeats, culminating in their demise against Kenya in the World Cup, and open wranging within the team has led to the retirement of the beleaguered captain Richie Richardson and the sacking of coach Andy Roberts.

Courtney Walsh and the revered former captain Clive

- Robert Samuels, a left-hand-

Barbados.

ed opening batsman from Ja-maica, and the appropriately named Patterson Thompson, a burly tearsway fast bowler from

Recent inconsistent performances have simply highlighted ciplinary committee of the West Indies Board for the second time in six months over the widely publicised altercation he had with long-serving team physio-therapist, the Australian Demis Waight, within the next week.

Chucking down the big cheese

ne of the world's oldest games – and cer-tainfy the only one played with a cheese – is teetering on the brink of extinction. In its heyday, London skittles (sometimes called Old English skittles) was the most popular of all pub games in London and the Home Counties. Now there are just two playable alleys. "We are like the last mating pair of dodos," says Guy Tunnicliffe, secretary of the Hampstead Lawn Billiard and Skittle Club.

Skittles it may be, but the London variety is no gentle trundle of a ball at nine helpless pins. From 21 fect, a skittler hurls the cheese, a 10lb block of lignum vitae shaped like a run-over Edam. underarm at the hornbeam pins. It smashes down with all the subtlety of an albatross landing in a bone china convention: crash, bang, wallop. If this game were an actor, it would be Oliver Reed.

But that's a bit misleading, Old English skittles is certainly noisy and energetic, but it wouldn't have survived for millennia without a high element of skill. A P Herbert was an cathusiast. In a 1947 edition of Punch, he wrote: "Forget about the Cup Final, the Ashes and the Guineas: the major sporting event this month is the London skittles championship between F G de B Hart and Lambert.

One of today's top players, Steve Hutchinson, says: "I style and elegance." For a pins and miss the lot. The 14inhigh pins are so far apart that a "floorer", where all nine are cleared in a single bombing raid, gets mentioned in dispatches. Even getting eight pins is warmly applauded and the very best players will sometimes take four "strokes" to clear the frame. "This game is public alley, though National



so much more skilful than tenpin, where the strikes become monotonous." Tunnicliffe says.

He is living proof that you don't have to be built like the Fridge to play. Tunnicliffe is, frankly, weedy, but he is the reigning London champion. which by default pretty well makes him world champ. Aged 49, he has lived in Hampstead for 25 years but only discovered eight years ago that his local, the Freemasons Arms, had a skittle alley in its basement.

London skittles - one of five pub games on which you can legally gamble – became his passion. He is taking an Open University degree to teach himself research methods, just so he can discover more about the game. Here are some of the facts he has uncovered.

"it's a very old game. It's men-

tioned by Herodotus and may even have been played by the pharaohs. I found a reference to the Lydians in south-west Turkey playing in the 10th century BC. It probably came from the Dutch game of four corners, which is similar. Bargees coming up the Thames may have brought it over. I've got a print of it being played in Jacobean times. Some picting couriers and each one cheese to land among the commented that playing without game far less skilful.

"The Amateur Skittles Association was formed in 1900 to formalise the rules. At the time, there were about 60 clubs which means there were at least 500 players, and probably many more. Our club is now the only

Westminster has its own at Norbury, south London."

Another survives at Putney, though the landlord has banned skittles. The only other alley, at Balham, south London, was recently demolished by Young's Brewery to make space for a children's room. But in Hampstead at least, the

game clings on. Tunnicliffe has optimistically just started publishing a newsletter, and the club has secured a large lump of lignum vitae, which will be sliced to replenish its stock of battered cheeses. Meanwhile, tomorrow evening sees the sport's major event: the London Championships, or the world championships for those who take a more global view. This open knockout tournament, with skittlers competing in head-to-head matches, gives the chance to see Tunnicliffe and others attempt some of the sport's tricklest shots. Every formation of standing pins has a name, from Crystal Palace, Cocked Hat, Gates of Hell and Waterloo to the

tricky Elephant's Arsehole. The winner will collect the magnificent Dewar-Challenge Shield, dating back to 1901 and bearing the motto Nemo me imgames had coloured pins de- pune lacessit (no one attacks me with impunity). It's an understart, it's possible for the had a value. In 1770, someone standable sentiment for a sport that involves flinging 10lb lumps coloured pins had made the of one of the world's hardest

> The London Skittles Championship takes place from 6pm at The Freemasons Arms, Downshire Hill, Hampstead, London from 6pm, Guy Tunnicliffe, tel 0171 267 5806, would welcome any information relating to the

> hemptom. Spesdway Star Cup first round second ieg Bradford v Sheffield.
>
> FOOTBALL: Endsleigh League First Division
> (3.0): Derby Bradford v Sheffield:
> Leicester v Huddersfield; Luton v Wetford: Milwell v Olcham; Norwich v West Brom; Port Vale
> Vitantene; Pontsmouth v Bansier, Reading v
> Cleriton; Southend v Ipswich: Wolverhampton
> v Crystal Palesce. Secend Division: Backpord
> v Swindon; Bournemouth v Wessel; Bradford v
> Chesterfield; Brighton v Carliste; Bristol Cny v
> Olford Lid; Crewe v Rotherham; Notis Counly v Burnley; Peterborough v Binstol Rovers.
> Shrewbury v Bernfoot; Stockport v York, Wesmen v Huft; Wycombe v Swanses. Third Division: Cardiff v Pymouth; Defregton v Bury;
> Donosster v Barnet; Exiter v Colchester; Fulham v Wigan; Hartlepool v Lincoh; Leyton Oriert v Preston; Mansfeld vi Herefort; Northempton
> v Gillingham; Rochdale v Scunthorpe; Scarborough v Carribridge Unit; Torquey v Gresser,
> Bell's Southsh League; Aberdeen v Hearte;
> Cerito v Falfort; Haberlian v Rarth Rovers; Nimannock v Partick Thetes (Mothewel v Parties;
> RUGBY LEAGUE: Stores Super League;

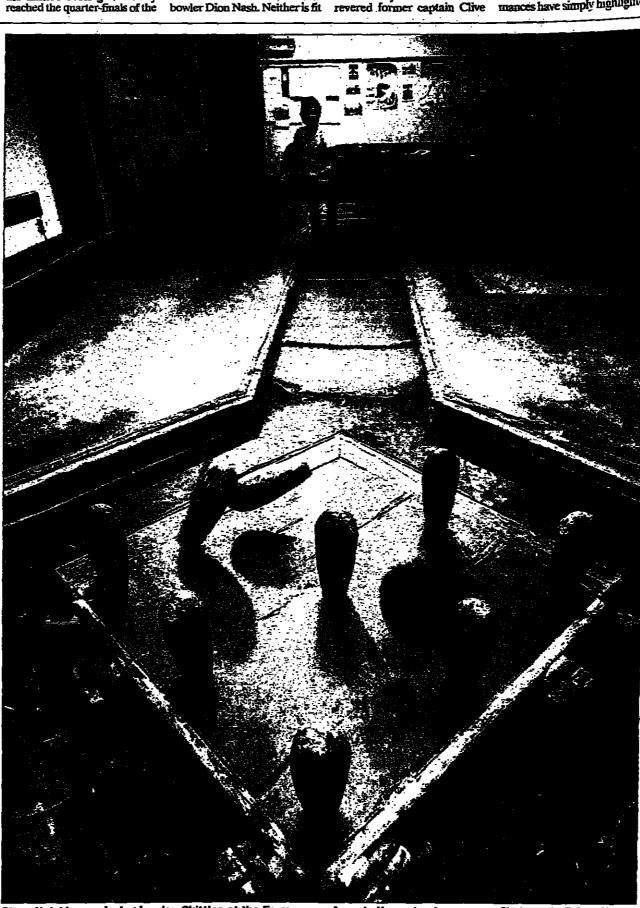
RUGBY LEAGUE: Stones Super League: Castleford v Oldham (6.0).

Castieford v Oldham (6.0).
RIGEY UNION CS County Championship finat: Gloucestershire v Warwedshire (3.0)
(Pividsenham), CS Under-21 County Champrocessing heat: East Midlands v Yorkshire
(12.30) (Nukclearham), Heinelsen League
and Counting League programmes.
BOSTING: British Westerweigh Tide (Brantwood):
Joe Calzaghe (Wales, holder) v Mark Oesansy
(Macri Ham), Both Sphiss are unbesten so
this contiest is difficult to predict. Delaney will
be hoping that the partisan crowd will inspire
him to wctory, Tickess £15-£40, (Tel: 01708
7887770 for tocket details).

788770 for ticket Getails).
SNOONER: The Embassy World Championship (Chucible Theatre, Sheffield). World champion Stephen Hendry leads the provisional world renting list and will once again be the player to beat, if beating Hendry is not anough incernitie for White, Higgins and O'Sulven, the winner's charge of £200,000 in pine money should focus their attention. (Tal: 0214 276 9922 for ticket information).

SSEZ: 10T IQUAL INformation),
BOWLS: English Men's Indoor Championships
(Melton Mondary), Women's World Indoor
Championships (Guernsey).
CRICRET: Carabridge University v Middlesse.
(The Parks), Totley Sheld, England A v The
Rest (Chelmster).

Rest (Chelmsford).
TEN-PIN BOWLING: BTBA Singles (Rother-hart). This ranking event promises top quality competition over two days as competitions seek renizing points to quotify for the 1997 Team England Squad. Superbowl 2000, Worthey Road. Nantserworth. Rotherham. (Tel: 01709 561336 for information).
FENCING: tpsic/trivitorit Cub Senes Wicmen's Epide (10m). The Brosh round of the Women's Epide (10m). The Brosh round of the Women's Epide World Cup takes place this weekend at Northgate Sports Centre. The final stages on



Steve Hutchinson playing London Skittles at the Freemasons Arms in Hampstead

Photograph: Robert Hallam

Buy Saturday's Independent and get the Independent on Sunday for 50_p and read:

Pornography and the British Are we all unshockable now?



Starting this Sunday in Real Life, part one of a two-part special report on pomography

Blake Morrison on The Shrug Factor Carry on Pornographing - what titillates the British?

Inside Stories: a day on a pom magazine Jobs for the girls: women in porn

*INDEPENDENT SINDEPENDENT

JUST THE TICKET: What's on where for the sporting spectator PICK OF THE DAY

Today

BASICTERALL: Women's Four Countries International Tournament Spelfrome College, Middlesed. England take on Wates, Soutland and Ireland in basicetoal's version of the 'Home International's. England will start as burnament favourities but will face stiff opposition during the three-day event. The competition's round-robin format ensures that spectators will be able to watch every team compete on any particular day. This year's event is on course to be the best in its This year's event is on course to be the describ is stonen year history. The race has a record number of 39,000 entries and will include too class amiletes from around the globe. Dionicio Ceron is the only man to win the London Marathon more than once iar day.

RACING: (Flut meetings in cupitals): NEW-BURNY: Members £13; Tathersalls £8; Silver Ring £3 (OAPs half proce). (2.10). Thirskin Club £12; Tathersalls £8 (OAPs £4): Family Enclosure £3 (OAPs £1.50). Accompanied un-der-16s free. (2.15). Ayr. Club £16; Grand-stand £8 (OAP's half-price). (2.10). and will be attempting to gain his third victory this

Eighty-eight nations were represented in last year's race. Earnorn Martin and Paul Evens head the leading group of British male athletes while Scotland's Liz McColgan starts the women's race in excellent SPEEDWAY: Premier League. Covertry v Belie Vue; Eastbourne v lpawich; Svendon v Wolver-hempton. Speedway Star Cuo first round sec-ond leg: Bradford v Sheffield.

Sunday are likely to be dominated by the sev-en strong German team, headed by last year's winner Gunna Bürle of Switzerland. Georgina

winner Ganna Bürle of Switzerland. Georgina Usber will be leading the challengt for Ipswich. Northgate Sports Centre. Certre Sidegate Lane West, Ipswich. (Fer. 01473 711211). LACROSSE: The Srepherts Friently Society Pre-rise League Title. Stockport v Mellor (Wilmslow). The stage is set for another spectacular shoot-out between these two teams following their recent reach in the first of the Dolly Helergroft.

out between these two teams following their recent clash in the final of The Daily Telegraph Seruor Rags. Mellor were the winquished serior than and will be eager to prove a point to their fleroe mells. (Tel: 0161-445 6358).

MOTOR SPORT: RAC British Touring Car Cremponships (Brands Hatch). Top motor sport

cramporarys: startes reach; for more sport action over two days of this world famous freck. One of the enduring features of this class of racing is that the cars used are easily ideminished as "evenday" motorcars - the similarity ends there! Qualifying starts today at 9.30am, actes 12-27 (Tet: 01.874.872331).

9.30em, dozets 12-17 (fet: 014/14/872331). Eurocar V6V/8 Champonships Second round, A tokal of 15 races will be held over the buo-day exent, with five Eurocar races each day. With all the cars powered by Ford V6 engines, the secting is last, funous and extremely compet-tive. Thruston Circuit, Androuer, Harts, £7 - free entry for children. Tel: 012/84 7726967.

emy for charges, file: 02264 7726965.
MOTORCYCLING: World Trial Championships.
Second round (Shropshile). The Individual F.I.M.
trists arms in Britain. Hawkstone Park (hear-Hodnet), Hine Heath, Stanton, Shropshile. M54
Ext S. A53/A442.

FOOTBALL: Endsleigh Insurance League First Onission: Sunderland v Stoke City.

FENCING: (pswich/World Cup Senes Women's Epide (1.30pm).

MOTOR SPORT: RAC British Touring car Championships (Brands Hatch). Day two (10.25am).

CRICKET: Lancasture v Yorksture (Old Trafford).

FOOTBALL (7.30 unless stated): Tuesday: B International: Denmark v Scotland (6.30) (Nykobing Falster), Unider-21 international:

England v Croatia (7.45) (Sunderland), Wednesday: International friendlies: Czech Republic v Republic of Ireland (4.0) (Praguer; Denmark v Scotland (7.15) (Copenhagen); Northern Ireland v Sweden (7.30) (Belfash; Switzerland v Wales (7.16) (Lugano).

Next week

Shoof the 15 London Merathons have been won by British runners to dete but every top competitor, re-gardless of nationality, will be eager for success with a summer in Atlanta tast approaching.

New attractions in this year's race include the ton-don Marathon Football Challenge (featuring repre-

Green Flag International: England v Croate (Nembley). England face a read test next week when they play hosts to a falented Croaten side that includes Zoonim's Botan and Enks Bejlook. Pluries with the England spued have forced farry Venables to make a number of changes to his side. Any new reacture will be eager to impress. Tickets £13-£45 (Tet 0181-90) 1234 for ticket denails).

ATHLETICS: Watford Harriers Open Graded Meeting, Entry on the night is £1.60; for this nominal sum you can witness a range of secting events, including the 100m, 400m, 1500m and 3000m, Woodside Stadium, Horseshot Lane, Garston (7-30pm).

CRECKET: Wednesday: One day match:

PROSESTOR LENG., Garston (7.30pm).
CRECKET: Wednesdays One day materic british Universities v Worwickshire (The Parks). Pritially: Benson and Hedges Cap. British (Iniversities v Ment (The Parks); Dehyshire v Durham (Chesterlied); Giamongan v Essex (Cardiff); Gloudstershire v Sussex (Bristol): Hampshire v tefand (Southampton); Lancashire v Minor Counties (Old Trafford); Mindlesex v Somerset (Lord's); Wordstershire v Northamptonshire (Wordster): Yorkshire v Northamptonshire (Wordester): Yorkshire v Northamptonshire (Wordester): Yorkshire v Northamptonshire (Wordester):

Shire (Edglassion); Worcesterniare v Nicotramptonshire (Worcesterniare v Vorkshire v
Notunghamshire (Headingley).

RACING Gifat mbedingle in capitalal); Monday: BRIGHTON: Cub. 61.2 (accompanied under 16s free). Tattersalis £8; Shire Ring £4
(inc £4 per cah) (First race 2.0). NOTTINGHAM!: Cub. £1.2 (Juniors, 16-21 years, £9).

Tattersalis £8; Sher Ring & Padock £4 (2.10).
Heathasis: Cub. £1; Padock £6 (0.4Ps £4).

12.20). Toeoday: ROLRESTONE; Cub. £1.2 (under 16s free); Tattersalis £8.50; Course Enclosure £4, plus £4 for each occupant (2.0).

PONTEFRACT: Cub. £1.2: Padock £8; Shire
Ring £3.50 (2.20). Chepstone; Cub. £1.4; Tattersalis £7; Course £2.50 (under 16s free
into all sectosures) (2.20). South-Next 16s free
into all sectosures) (2.20). Tournsdey: BEVERLEY; Cub. £12; Interer Cub. 116 to 21-yeardes) £8; Tattersalis £8; Shier Ring £3; Course
Ecclosure £2; Picnia area £2 or £2 per cer,
plus £2 per occupant (2.10), Fonthwell Cub.
£12; Junior Cub. £12 to 15-year-olds) £2, under 12s free; Tattersalis £8 (0.00mpanied under 12s free; Tattersalis £9 (0.00mpanied un-

sertiatives from all the League clubs in England, Scot-land and Wales), the celebrity "Heart to Heart" race and the use of microchips to transmit split times of the top runners throughout the race.

Charity is always a regular winner of the London Marattor. Competions have raised in excess of £60m for charity since 1981 and the London Maratton Charitable Trust has awarded a total of £2,675m to fund recreational activities in the capital. For the vast majority of competitors, a few cheers

ke the experience seem less painful, so any words of encouragement will be well received. There are numerous excellent varitage points along the course to watch the action live. As far as the athletes are concerned, the day will depend on preparation. Two thousand volunteers will

and out 750,000 bottles of water and the St John Ambulance service will provide 1.120 volunteers, 88th of petroleum jelly, 1,300 plasters, 5,000 cotton wool. Talls, 1,000 slok bags, 300 crépe bandages and 500 stretchers.

ICH4); Club £15, Juntor Club (16 - 25yrs) £13 Grandstand & Paddock £12; Park £5 (2.0) Grandstand & Paddock £12; Part £5 (2,0), Ludlow: Club £14 (accompanied under £8s; free); Tattessais £9; Course £5 (5,48). Perth: as Wednesday (2,20), Taumton: Members £11; Paddock £8,50; Centre of Course £4 (5,30). Next weekend

FOOTBALL: Saturday: FA Carling Premiersing leight matches), Endsleigh Insurance League (34 matches), Bell's Scottish League (20

mattries). Ber's School League (20' mattries).
CRICKET: Swandey: Benson and Hedges Cup. British Universities v Gamongan (Ferners); Essex v Middlessx (Chelmstord); Hent v Somerset (Maldistane); Lancastrie v Durtnern (Old Trafford); Lekasstershire v Derbychire (Lekass

Herry Minor Counties v Warwickstrike (Lesmont), Notinghampshire v Scotland (Iren Bridge); Survey v Hampshire (The Foster's Oveil); Sussex v Ireland (Hove). RUGGY LEAGUE: Saturday: Sik Out Challenge Cup final (Wernblay): Bractions Bulls v St Halens.

SNOONER: Embassy World Champlonship (Crucible Thesire, Sheffield). RUGGY UNION: Saturday: Helinehan Lengue (12 matches). Courage League (20 matches). (12 metched). Coungle League (20 metched), NATION: SPORT: Setuday: The Pirell International Rully (Carlisle). This two day event will leature no less than seen manufactures in the second round of the Mobil/Top Georgistich Rathy Champtonship. The event leatures some tough rallying over some of Entirel's most preliging overs some of Entirel's most preliging overs somes. (Ret 01:15 9:45 5865 for general information).

IN-LINE SKATINGS Seturday: 1996 British Extreme in-Line Stebing Championships. In-Line Stebing is a breatheading veilal sport, ex-

Extreme in-Line Swahing Champtonships, In-Line Stating is a breathcating seaset sport, ex-hibiting style, speed and power. Britain's top staters will be participating at the champ-lorship percenting a range of high tying survis, including treath-taking front and back tips over ramps. With four different categories there will be something for spectators of all ages at Eu-tropi's largest indoor statepark or Warkinfield. [Tel: 0151-263 0548). RACENE: LEICESTER: Club £12; Tattersalls EX: Stiver Ring £4 (secontreared under-165 free), Free racecards (2.0). REPORT Club £12. Tattersalls £8; Stiver Ring £4; (burse £2), ac-companied under-16s free oil enclosures) (2.05). SANOOWIN (C44) (Mitred): Club £25, Lunior Club £16. 25yrs) £16: Granostand & Preddock £15; Park £7 (2.15). WOLVER-HAMPTON (Mil): Club £15; Tettersalls £8 (CAP

members of Diamond Caub £41; Viewing Restaurant £25.90 including entrence and meal (7.0). Mankest Resear Caub £12; Tattersalls £8 (IOAPs who are members of course's Jubilee Club £41; Silver Ring £5 Ulubilee Club OAPs £2.50) (2.10) Worcester; Members £12.50; Tattiersalls £9.50; Course £5 (IOAPs £2.50) (5.45). Plan ahead

risgies event or is wind in the UK. Fishing is the most popular participa-tion sport in Britain with over four mil-lion regular anglers. Fly fishing is considered the "Premier Division" of en-ging and attracts indviduals and celebri-tes from all walks of life. Clubs from all over Britain put forward teams of six an-plars for the pretional beaut. The the

over Britain put forward teams of six anglers for the regional heats. The Championship is the only opportunity for club anglers to compete in an international competition against the world's best. The fishing is done from boats in the traditional "loch style". Each angler is paired with one from another team and takes it in turn to captain the boet and decide where to fish from. Fishing time lasts for eight hours before each angler's catch is weighed and added to the combined weight of the team. The winning team is the one with the combined heaviest catch.

Estroy year more than 500 clubs from all over Britain and France put forward teams of six anglers hoping to qualify for one of the National Finals and go on to compete in the final at Rutland Water in September.

Final and are the current would be an above.

Water in September.
England are the current world team champions and also boast the current individual world champion. Jeremy Hermann. Hermann and the other five angles who will be defending the world champion in Czechoslovaka next month are all competing in take next month are all competing in take year's championship.

peering in this year's championship.

Bonson and Hedges Py Fishing Championship Heats: South Wales (Llyn Landegledd) April 15th-21st Midlands (Rutland Water) May 5th; South and South West (Chew Valley) May 9th-11th; North of England (Rutland Water) May 9th-11th; North of England (Rutland Water) May 9th-11th; North in reland (Llough Eme) June 8th; South and East (Beal Water) June 20th-23th; North Wales (Jim Brenig) July 12th-13th; South and Coch Laven) July 15th-20th.

Details of forthcoming events with

information on tickets and venues

should be sent to: The Sports

Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, Fax: 0171 293 2894.

Compiled by Alister Morgan

Plan ahead
The 1996 Benson and Hedges Ry Fishing Championship begins in South Wales this weekend. The second of the 10 regional heats takes place in England at the beginning of May at Rutland Water before continuing to France, Scotland and Northern Ireland. This event has now become the unofficial "Rive Nations" Championship" of fyishing, and this year the most successful teams from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and France will be joined for the first time by a guest team from Belgium. With more than 30,000 competitors involved in the preliminary stages, it is the biggest event of its kind in the UK. Fishing is the most popular participa-

ter he had won a helpful toss. Alex Wharf, who previously had one first-class victim to his name - Brian Lara - prised out Mike Atherion and Steve Tichard in a spell of 6-3-7-2 dur-

away at a healthy pace.
Tichard was superbly picked up at slip by Byas himself from a ball which nipped away from him as he aimed through midwicket and Atherton was first caught in two minds and then caught behind. And at the other end was the encouraging sight

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particularly good order. Operating off what appeared to be a straighter, maybe slightly reduced run-up, he pitched the ball up around off stump admittedly anything else would have be folly on this pitch - and, although he ended wicketless, Atherton would have noted how often his bat was passed. Ed Smith became the first player for 42 years to score a century on his first-class debut for Cambridge University when be made an unbeaten 101 against Glamorgan at Fenner's. Smith, who is registered with Kent, hit 13 fours in his 218-ball innings. "This is why I came."

Symonds fails to impress

Andrew Symonds' quest to be-come an England Test enicketer received a frosty response from Ray Illingworth last night. "I know how I felt last year and so far my feelings have not changed," the chairman of selectors said.

Illingworth effectively closed his file on Symonds in September when the Anglo Australian rejected a chance to play for England A and chose instead to return "home" to Queenstand. There won't be any second chance for him, Illingworth said at the time. But now the Birmingham-born, Aastralianraised 20-year-old has acceptwith Gloucestershire, with whom he scored 1,438 runs and hit a world record 20 sixes again Glamorgan last season, and has made himself available for England - if they want him.

The contract includes a stringent clause insisted mon by the Test and County Cricket Board and Cricketers' Association that he will be available for Test matches if selected.

Illingworth will want to study Symonds' statements before committing himself fully. But his initial reaction confirmed that the youngster will need to con-vince English cricket about the sincerity of his motives.

The issue could cause an early split among England's new panel of selectors. David Graveney has been sympathetic towards Symonds' dual qualification dilemma, but Graham Gooch was critical last year of players appearing to fly flags of convenience.

Symonds played for Queens-land but failed to win a place in the Australian World Cup team and that proved a vital factor in his decision to sign the new Gloucestershire deal.

Wharf makes a quick impression on Atherton

MIKE CAREY

reports from Old Trafford Lancashire 59-3 v Yorkshire

There are pre-season workouts and there are pre-season workouts. After venturing as far as Jamaica and Zimbabwe, respectively, to get the feel of bat on ball, Lancashire and Yorkshire returned to normality with a vengeance yesterday.

The weather closed in after only 21 overs of their scheduled three-day friendly match. It was a morning for seam bowling, if not much else, and York-shire's new captain David Byas would have been gratified at the way his bowlers performed af-

ing which he moved the ball

of Darren Gough looking in

Cambridge and why the two Universities should remain as nurseries for first-class cricket. There is no other way I could have played against these guys at 18," he said.

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Faldo falls short of expectation

Golf

GEORGE JULIAN reports from Hilton Head

It was something like the morn-ing after the night before when Nick Faldo returned to competitive action in the MCI Classic here in South Carolina, following his magnificent victory

in the US Masters.
There was little doubt that Greg Norman, the man he came from six shots behind to beat at Augusta, was nursing the bigger hangover, but Faldo was also not quite right with a oneunder-par 70 littered with brilliant birdies and many mistakes.

Faldo dropped only one shot while disposing of the Australian in the final round in the Masters last Sunday, but he combined six birdies with three bogeys and a double-bogey to slip four strokes behind the early leaders from America, Ken Green, Guy Boros and Jim Furyk, who all opened with 66.

"I made a lot of errors," said Faldo, who refused to blame fatigue for spoiling such a promising start after a hat-trick of birdies from the second hole swiftly sent him to three under

plan now is to keep getting the birdies but eliminate the errors."

Faldo must have feared the worst when he climbed on to the first tee at the Harbour Town course to a huge greeting from the gallery. He skied his opening drive, the ball travelling barely 200 yards. Even he couldn't help laughing and he said: "My divot has gone further than the ball."

He did rescue a par-four and played two superb approaches for birdies at the second and third before holing from 14 feet for another at the fourth. He was twice in sand two holes later before a 12-footer found the target at the seventh as he went to the turn in 34.

His fifth birdie at the 11ththis time from five yards - got him back to three below par but the good work was undone at the next with a double-bogey six after his second shot clipped the branches of a tree and he threeputted. Faldo birdied the 16th from 25 feet but threw that advantage back when he was bunkered at the next short hole.

Sandy Lyle had four birdies in a level-par 71, and while the British golfers were working on the course, Norman, one of the late starters, was working on his par. He added: "I was a little tan, stretched out on the declined, but I played OK. My of his £5m yacht "Aussie Rules" tan, stretched out on the deck

Walton gains after pain

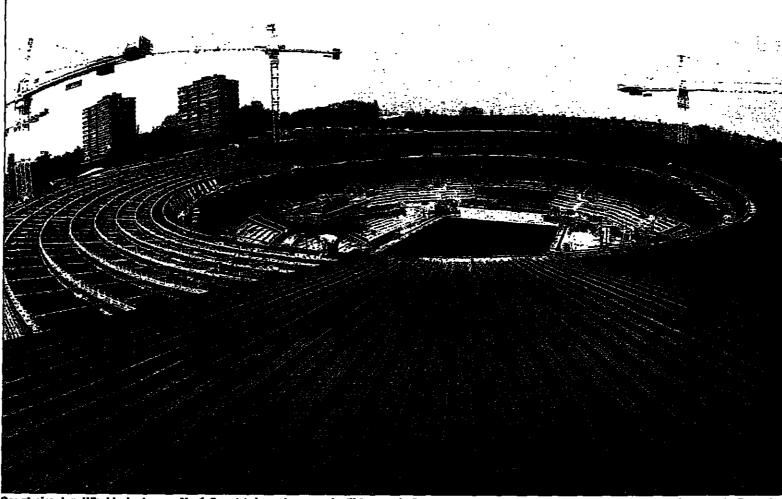
Philip Walton decided it was three holes-in-one - just as time to kick-start his season in there were on the opening day Cannes yesterday and not even a sore big toe stopped him from doing it.

nerve to secure the winning point for Europe in the Ryder this year, the 34-year-old Irish-Cup at Oak Hill last September, shot a six under par 65 to lie joint second behind Spanish rookie Fernando Roca, whose 64 equalled the Royal Mougins course record.

On a day when there were not drop a stroke.

of the Madeira Island Open three weeks ago - Walton at last returned to the form that Walton, the man who held his earned him his cup debut.

In his five previous starts man has earned a mere £2,480 and he is languishing in 156th place in the Order of Merit. But, despite needing some pain-killers before the start of the £400,000 event, he did



Court circular. Wimbledon's new No 1 Court takes shape and will be ready for action at next year's tournament

Photograph: Peter Jay

Sampras eyes on £392,500

their early twenties they can really afford to say that the quest for Grand Slam titles means more to them than the prize попеу.

The 24-year-old Pete Sampras, already the biggest prize winner in the sport's history with almost £15m, will add £392,500 to his fortune in July if he wins the Wimbledon men's singles title for a fourth consecutive year.

When Bjorn Borg achieved that feat in 1979, he received £20,000 – £7,500 less than this year's increase - and the same the following year after making it five in a row (£86,500 for the lot). Borg considered he had done well enough to retire less

Today's successful players become so wealthy so fast that by Wimbledon have raised the stakes by offering ever higher come so wealthy so fast that by rewards for the annual extravaganza. John Roberts reports

> than two years later, and players have continued to profit along with the All England

In each of the past two years, the championships have generated £27.9m, pre-tax, for the development of the British game, and yesterday it was announced that the total prize money for this year's tournament had been increased by 7.3 per cent to £6,465,910.

Wimbledon continues to pay women less than men, aithough this year's women's singles champion will hardly go hungry on £353,000, a £25,000 increase on Steffi Graf's purse last July.

Women are still given parity at the United States Open, which is offering a record \$600,000 (£408,000) to each sineles champion at this year's championship, at the end of August, and a total of \$10,894m, an increase of more

than 10 per cent. The sale of debenture seats enables Wimbledon to fund ground improvements. The most spectacular example, a new No 1 Court for 1997, has taken shape. Yesterday, John Curry, the All England Club chairman, performed a topping out ceremony with the con-

Players in the lower reaches of the Davis Cup will have to get used to playing without the "let" service call if the International Tennis Federation adopts a recommendation to its annual meeting in June. It would mean that "let" serves which land in will have to be

played, and those which land out will count as faults. The Davis Cup committee is seeking a two-year experiment eliminating the "let" serve for all zonal ties in groups three and four (Britain, incidentally, are in Group 2 of the Euro/African Zone).

A two-year study concluded

Matautia free for

that 85 per cent of "lets" allowed no advantage to either player, 10 per cent gave the server an advantage and 5 per cent were of benefit to the receiver.

The ITF will also consider a proposal allowing Davis Cup captains the free use of substitutes on the third day of ties, irrespective of whether the match is still live or not. Currently, substitutions can only be made when a player is injured or ill. "It would get rid of phoney medical certificates." Thomas Hallberg, the Davis

Cup director, said. The Swedish Tennis Association has been fined £3,500 for "alleged derogatory statements" made by team leaders during the 5-0 Davis Cup win against India in Calcutta.

Silva in good Mexican company

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

This Sunday's London Marathon will be of pressing interest to the 500 inhabitants of Tecomite, in the Mexican state of Vera Cruz. Depending on the result, there could be a water supply in it for them.

Two years ago, German Silva became Tecomite's most famous son in winning the New York City marathon, and when asked by a grateful state governor what gift he would like to mark the schievement, he requested that his home village be given electricity. And lo, it came to pass.

When he retained his New York title last November, the president of Mexico got on the phone to him, but Silva's next suggested project - water on tap to replace the current options of collection from wells or the nearby river - was not taken up. If he can maintain his winning run on Sunday, however, his claim will be hard to resist.

To do that, the personable Mexican will have to overcome the challenge of the only man to have run the distance in under 2hr 8min twice, Vincent Rousseau of Belgium, and his fellow countryman Dionicio Ceron, who is on for an unprecedented hat-trick of London victories.

Like Ceron, the son of a poor Mexican farmer, Silva also knows what it is like to be at the bottom of the socio-economic scale. As a youngster, he worked with his father on an orange plantation, lugging up to 100 kilograms of fruit at a time on his back. "That is why I didn't grow so much," he said with a broad smile. "And why I am strong in my legs."

He may not be the only Mexican runner to emerge in that fashion. As part of the mass entry races which he now sponsors in his home region, he donates a prize to the winner of a 500 metres race in which all competitors carry 100kg of oranges on their backs...

Silva's first experience of the marathon, in Rotterdam four years ago, was an unhappy one, led to finish. But com ing third in London in 1994 banished the doubts he was beginning to barbour about the distance. That made me realise that I could be one of the best marathon runners in the world," he said.

When the Mexicans meet for only their second marathon together on Sunday, Tecomite's inhabitants will be keeping their fingers crossed. And when they watch the television highlights, whatever the result, they will know who to thank.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The goals that the Blackburn

Klinsmann ban upheld

Football

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123

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Germany are expected to be told tomorrow that they will have to kick off their Euro 96 campaign with two top players suspended.

Úefa's executive committee are set to confirm at their meeting in Geneva that the one-match bans imposed on Jürgen Klinsmann and Steffen Freund for collecting two yellow cards in the qualifying competition will stand, despite German protests. It will mean they will miss the Germans' opening Group C match against the Czech Republic at Old Trafford on 9 June.

The Uefa executive committee has been unimpressed by the German quest to have bookings incurred in the qualifiers discounted for the finals. They have claimed that the hosts, England, would be going into the tournament with all their players eligible because they did not have to play in the

Five other players would also bledon to field under-strength miss their country's opening games - Daniel Prodan (Romania), Yuri Nikiforov (Russia), Marc Hottiger (Switzerland), Danny Blind (Netherlands) and Miguel Angel Nadal (Spain), who is banned for two matches. A Uefa spokesman, Massimo

Gonella, said: "The rules are unlikely to be altered because the Germans are upset. When the competition was held in Germany in 1988 and they did not have to qualify, they did not complain then." Uefa will also announce whether coaches can nominate 21 or 22 man squads for Euro 96. This issue has been discussed for the best part of a year, but after pressure from England's coach, Terry Venables, among others, Uefa is expected to endorse 22-man squads, which will probably mean most will include a third goalkeeper.

Uefa is also expected to endorse a decision that England will not get back the Uefa Cup berth it lost as punishment for allowing Tottenham and Wim-

sides in last summer's Intertoto Cup competition. For the first time, the Intertoto was Non-League notebook used as a pre-qualifying competition for the Uefa Cup and the organisers' hand was strengthened this week when Bordeaux who, unlike the Eng-

lish clubs, took the Intertoto seriously, reached the Uefa Cup final. It took them 18 matches to do it, starting from their first Intertoto Cup match last June. A large part of the meeting will be taken up discussing changes in formats for European Cup competitions. The executive is expected to announce that all 49 Uefa members will receive at least one place in the Uefa Cup,

while the losers in the prelimi-

nary round of the European Cup before the Champions' League

competition starts will auto-

matically qualify for berths in the first round of the Uefa Cup. The expansion of the Champions' League from 16 to 24 teams, and proposals for upgrading the Cup-Winners' Cup, will also be examined.

Conference clubs in control in the Trophy Challenge Cup final

RUPERT METCALF

Despite suffering some scary moments last weekend, Macclesfield Town and Northwich Victoria should be able to secure their trips to Wembley in tomorrow's second-leg ties in the semi-finals of the FA

Umbro Trophy.
The two GM Vauxhall Conference teams from Cheshire had to come from behind in last Saturday's first legs against op-position from the UniBond League. Macclesfield overturned a first-half deficit against Chorley to win 3-1 at Moss Rose, while Northwich also went a goal down at Hyde but recovered to take a 2-1 advantage back to the Drill Field.

History is against Hyde and Chorley in their quests to cause upsets tomorrow: the Trophy final has been contested by two Conference clubs in eight of the winner.

last nine years. Only Leek, well beaten by Barrow in 1990, have represented the lower leagues at Wembley this decade in the Trophy.

In what may have been a final rehearsal, Macclesfield won 2-1 at Northwich in a league fixture on Tuesday - when most eyes were on the struggles of the top two. Stevenage retained their two-point lead (with a game in hand) over Woking, but both sides had to earn their points the hard way.

Stevenage trailed from the 11th minute at Kettering but were rescued by goals from the Conference's top scorer, Barry Hayles, in the 69th and 80th minutes. Woking also won 2-1, at home to Farnborough, despite going a goal down with just 16 minutes remaining. The Cards drew level thanks to an 82nd-minute own goal and, two minutes later, Darren Adams grabbed what could be a vital

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

St Helens' Western Samoan forward, Vila Matautia, will be able to play in the Challenge Cup final after escaping with a one-match punishment for his sending-off against Bradford Bulls last Sunday.

The disciplinary committee ruled that Matautia had raised his forearm to Bradford's Simon Knox, but that minimal contact had been made. He will miss Sunday's match at Halifax but, like the Bulls' Sonny Nickle, who was placed on report in the same match, is clear to play at Wembley next Saturday.

The Leeds forward, George Mann, has been suspended for three matches after being cited on video evidence by the League's management committee over a high, late tackle in the defeat at Oldham. Mann's ban starts with Sun-

the first-set tie-break. Pete Sampras, the world No 1, is also in the last eight, but he was made to bettle by Sweden's Magnus Norman for his 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 victory. The second seed, Michael Chang, also strugged to make the quarter-liness. After losing five straights games at the end of the first set, he advanced with a 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 victory over fellow Armerican, Jeff Tarango.

JAPAN OPIEN (Tolgro) Men's slagles, third reseat R Reneberg (US) bt S Lereau (Can) 6-2 6-4; G Fonget (Fr) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 6-4 6-4; M Chang (US) bt G Rusedski (GB) 7-6 6-1; H Dreaman (Ga) bt W Ferrars (SA) 6-4 6-3; M Woodforde (Aus) bt F Fetterian (Den)

is I ampress (1996) bit G Husedski (GBI 7-6; H Dreschreim (Ger) bit W Ferners (SA) 6-4; H Weodforde (Aus) bit F Fetterion (Den) 6-2; R Krajboek (Neth) bit D Prinosil (Ger) 6-0; P Sarripas (US) bit M Normen (Swe) 6-4 6-1. Dombles, first round (select-1 Woodforde see Minosteriole Densil

BERNIUDA OPEN (Paget, Bermuda) Med's Singles, second round: M Whander (Swe) bt P Rather (Aus) 7-6 6-3; M Zaholetta (Arg) bt L Adnan Moreyon (Ecuador) 6-4 6-3; D Dier (Ger) tx N (apenta (Ecuador) 6-2 6-4; Franca (Arg) bt S Shetton (US) 6-2 6-2. Poudites, second

Shetton (US) 6-7 6-2 6-2. Doubliss, ascood repeats 1-9 best (Swe) and B Hingstern (SA) bt. D their and K Brassch (Ger) 6-4 6-1; G Etile (Angland F Melligen (Br) bt.) Belloil and J Pugh (US) 7-6 6-2; N Lapertit (Equ) and S Cozal (Ger) bt. S Draper and J Stotlenberg (Aus) 8-3 6-3.

Eagles, when Leeds will also be without the injured Mick Shaw and Neil Harmon from their pack. Their new signing from New Zealand, Nathan Picchi, will come into consideration. Wigan's Great Britain winger.

day's game at home to Sheffield

Jason Robinson, has asked for a transfer after failing to get his contract improved. Robinson, who is due to join the Australian Rugby League when his contract expires in June 1997, has failed to persuade the club to revise his current deal. The player has said that he

might not play in tonight's match against Bradford Bulls because of a neck injury sustained in last weekend's victory at Castleford. The board will discuss his request today or tomorrow. Bradford, in their last match

before Wembley, welcome back Jeremy Donougher to their side after his recovery from the neck injury that he suffered at Sheffield on Good Friday.

First-class matches

Camb Univ v Glamorgan

Second day of three; 11.30 today

Cambridge University won total

FENNER'S: Glamorgan, with all their sac-ond-innings wickets standing, lead Cam-bridge University by 142 runs.

GLAMORGAN - First Include 262 for 1 dec (H Morris 126no, D L Hemp 103no).

CAMERIDGE UNIVERSITY - First Innings

R T Ragnauth c Barwick b Watkin8

ET Smith c Metson b Thomas _____101

Did not bet: R O Jones, †D R H Churton, N J Haste, A R Whittall, G R Moffat, E How.

Bowling: Vistkin 17-6-43-1: Thomas 18-4-

To best: H Morris, A Dale, P A Cottey, D L Hemp, R D B Croft, S D Thomas, †C P Met-

Bowling: Haste 9-1-40-0; Moffat 2-0-31-0; Whittail 7-0-30-0.

Limpires: R A White and J W Lloyds.

Oxford Univ v Durbam

Second day of three: 11.30 today

73-1; Croft 17-3-54-0; Barwck 22: 1; Dale 2-1-1-0; Hemp 3-0-27-0.

GLAMORGAN - Second limings

*R Q Cake c Watlen b Barwick ___

A Singh not out

W.J. House not out

Total (for 3 dec, 79 overs).

Felt: 1-36, 2-138, 3-177.

Extras (fb3, nb8) ...

S P James not out .

*M P Maynarti not out Extras (b4, w2, nb4).

son, S. L. Watkin, S. R. Barwick.

Total (for 0, 18 overs)

Rovers and England striker, Alan Shearer, has scored at club level since breaking into senior football with Southampton in the 1987/88 season. His four seasons with Rovers have produced 130 goals.

Coach happy with progress

Despite the problems before the match programme got under-way, David Whitaker, Great Britain's coach, professed him-self satisfied with the benefits pained from the Six Nations Pre-Olympic Tournament here in which they finished third behind Pakistan and India, writes Bill Colwill from Atlanta. "Good tournament. We have learnt a lot and we are now much nearer to selecting our Olympic squad," Whitaker said as the men's team set off for home. Whitaker was delighted with the wins over the United States

and Argentina and draw against South Korea. All three are in Britain's pool here in summer. The coach added: "We have shown them all that we can create chances. We now need to sort out our penalty corner drill."

Britain's women drew 1-1 here yesterday with the United States after going a goal up in 32 seconds from Sue MacDonald, thanks to Tammy Miller's perfect right-wing cross. Further chances went begging before the Americans improved and only a series of world-class saves from Hilary Rose kept them out until Barb Marois converted their fifth penalty corner.

WEDNESDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

EUROPEAN CUP Semi-finals second log-Nartes 3 Lucross 2 (Aventus wir 4-3 or ag-gregate); Panathinalios O Ajax 3 (Ajax wir 3-1 on aggregate).

FA CARING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Wila 1 West Ham 1; Blackburn 3 Wimbledon 2; Man-chester Urd 1 Leets 0; Newcastle 1 Southampton 0; Notingham Forest 0 Coven-try 0; Sheffield Wednesday 0 Chelisea 0. ENDSLEICH INSURANCE LEAGUE First Di-vision: Leicester 2 Oldham O; Stoles 1 Charl-ton O; Tranmere Rovers 5 (pswich 2 Second

U Burniey O.
OTHER RESILETS: Pontins League First Di-whose Botton 1 Wolves 2; Notis County 1 Barn-in, Jern O. Second Officiator: Blackpool 1 Port Valle 1; Braction Cny O Hull Cny 3; Grimstry 2; Barneley 2; Huddersteld O Manchester Cny 0; Middlesbrough 1 Rotherham 0; Sunderland 3 Burniey 1. Bard Division: Lincoln 3 Domaster 1; Rochdele 3 Sourstrone 1; Wigan 1 Chester-field 2. Aron Insurance Combination First Division: Bristol Cny O Ponsmouth 0: Crustal tield 2. Amon Insurance Combination First Division: Anstol Coty O Pontymouth C; Cystal-Palace 2 Wardoot O; Ipswich O Mishell 2; Lu-ton O Chelses D; Norwich 4 Bristol Rovers O; Oddod Utol 1. Arsental 3; Southampton O

Wirmbisdom 3. Second Divisions: Newport AFC 1 Bournemouth 1: Swansas 1 Torquey 1. Icis Lengus Premiser Divisions: Harrow 2 Hendom 2: Molesey 0 Carrisation 1. First Divisions: Abrugtom Town 2 Tooting & Mitcham 1. Third Divisions: Lawes 1. Hornchusch 0. Unificate Lawes 1. Hornchusch 1. Swansas 1. Hornchusch 1. Swansas 1. Hornchusch 1. Swansas Homes. Division: Lawes 1. Horrotusch 0. Unificand Lengine Premier Division: Frickley 2 Guestey 2. Flust Division: Affreton 4 Netherlield 1; Farsley Centic 3 Affreton 1873. Beaustr Homes Lengine Midliand Division: Carty 2 Bedworth 3. Southern Division: Carty 2 Bedworth 3. Southern Division: Carteriori 1; Farslam 2. Dr Hartens Cap Flush final first lags Baldock 1 Nuneston 3. Great Mills Lengine Premier Division: Bristol Menor Farm 0 Mengensfield 2; Firme 0 Teurism 3. Northern Counties East Lengine Premier Division: Aprilled 0. Albert 1; Denghy 7 Glesshoughton 3. North West Counties Lengine First Division: Prescot 1. Manns Road 0. Federation Briwery Horthern Imagine Flust Division: Crook 1 Curhen 1: Eppleton 2 Consett 7; Fernyhill 0 RTM Nescastie 8; Whichen 1. Billingham Systhonie 4.

ppe 8: Whicheso 1 Billington Synthonia 4 as 8. Journal Highland League Choi: uddn 0 Lossiemouth 1; Deventivele 2 Buck

ngelogan of the servicing of the control of the con

eration yesterday announced a six-year deal with the European Broadcasting Union, worth around £110m, which ensures major events will be screened on

Badminton

Bacimulation

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP (Herning, Denmark) Men's singles, third round: P.E. Hoyer-Lassen (Den) to I. Lindelof (Fin) 18-16 15-4; J.Oisson (Swe) bit H. Sperre (Not) 18-15 18-13; D. Haji (Eng) br. C. Bruik (Neth) 9-15 17-14 15-8; J.Oisson (Swe) bit V. Druzzberko (Ukr) 10-2 ret; D. Eriesson (Swe) bit V. Druzzberko (Ukr) 10-2 ret; D. Eriesson (Swe) bit V. Druzzberko (Ukr) 10-2 ret; D. Eriesson (Swe) bit V. Druzzberko (Ukr) 11-5 19-17 P. Nrowiess (Eng) bit P. Pelupassy (Neth) 15-8 15-13; P. Resmusson (Den) bit R. Ligeruski (Fin) 15-0 15-8. Wienmark is singles, third round: C. Mentin (Den) bit N. Morgan (Wah) 11-2 11-2; S. Muller (Ger) bit E. Robinson (Swe) 11-12-12-2; S. Muller (Ger) bit E. Robinson (Swe) 11-3 11-12; C. M. Spersonson (Den) bit J. Mangartige (Eng) 11-3 11-2; A. Sondergaard (Den) bit J. Manler (Hall) 11-3 11-2; A. Sondergaard (Den) bit J. Manler (Hall) 11-3 11-4; A. Sondergaard (Den) bit J. Manler (Eng) 11-6 11-2; A. Sondergaard (Den) bit J. Manler (Eng) 11-6 11-2; A. Sondergaard (Den) bit J. Manler (Eng) 11-6 11-2; A. Sondergaard (Den) bit J. Manler (Den) bit C. Bengisson (Swe) 11-2 11-0.

AMERICAN LEASTIC Milwaukee 8 Meer York Yardees 4: Balbroose 6 Boston 5 (12 Irmings); Chicago Write Son 3 Yarasas Cuy 1: Mannesota 9 Clevetand 8: Texts 12 Oektand 1; Califor-nia 5 Toronto 1; Seattle 8 Debus 3. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Houston 7 New York Mes Netheron, consumer recognition of the romana 5; Chicago Cutes 8 Cincinnatis 6 (10 Innings); San Deep 11 Colorado 6; Los Angeles 11 Ser. Francisco 2; Philadelphia 9 Montreal 3; At-lanta 4 Ronda 2; St Louis 6 Pittsburgh 1.

Raskathall

Athletics The International Amateur Athletic Fed-

ENGLISH MEN'S INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

ENGLISM INER'S INDOOR CHAMPIONISMIPS (Melfon Monkany) Pairs second roand: Operar (A Godeat, C James) in Stevenage IS Apps, T West) 17-13; Nottingham (D Rotinson, B Morley) in UCB Calephrane (M Devies, D Fowkes) 23-15; Chipping Norron (S Drinkesier, L Gäller) or Newcassie (M London, S Harvey) 21-18; Victory (D Bishop, C Brewer) in Wymondham Dell (J Ottawey, R Haydon) 22-11; Dartford Stone Lodge it; Presson 21-13; Bentham bt Whitekingriss 24-14; Grantham bt Whitekingriss 24-14; Grantham bt Wey Valley 25-4; Leosafer It Starley 22-21; Quarter-finalis: Nottingham (D Robinson, B Morley) bt Oyster (A Boosaf, C James) 24-7; Chipping Norton (S Dinionites, L Gäter) it Victory (D Bishop, C Brewer) 27-19; Dartford Stone Lodge (K McGlaw, M Brick) to Bertham (A Wills, 7 Alcock) 22-11; Grantham (M Pulling, D Auckland) at Liebester (L Janks, A Lions)

took just 35 seconds to beat his first challenger, Said Lawel, in Glasgow last month, faces the No 1 contender Daniel Alicea from Puerto Rico. Cricket

Worthing Bears failed in their attempt to retain the Budweiser Championship to reason the Subsesser Cramponship Tophy by slipping to a 79-60 defeat against Sheffield on Wednesday night. The result puts Sheffield through to Wearbley for the second consecutive year after they opened up a nane-point lead at the interval. They brild on the early absorbate to some 13 cours well-Carly advantage to score 13 comes with out reply in the third quarter to put the game out of reach. NBA: Nav Jersey 107 Tomoto 95; Phiade-phia 90 Miant 86; Buston 121 Vastington 106; Detroit 102 Jodana 93; Gotter: Size 109 Manesta 205; Seatle 96 Portant 90; Sacremento 103 Procent 102

BUDWESSER CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFTS second legs: Leopards 74 Manchester 83 (series tied at 1-1); Sheffield 79 Worthing 60 (Sheffield win 2-0).

Boxing Naseem Harned will make his second defence of the World Boxing Organisa-tion world featherweight title at New-castle Arena on 8 June. Harned, who

ENGLAND WOM

internationalis (not's 13 lung Lescetor 16 June; Durtan 18 lune, Testes Scarborough 24-27 June; Wornesser 3-6 July; Gularford 12-15 July. Football

Brighton's former England defender, Stave Foster, has announced his re-tirement at the age of 38 after more than 700 matches. Injuries have restricted him to only eight games this sea-son after a 21-year career. Bobby Smith, the former manager of Swansea, has lost his claim for untain dismissal by the Verch Field club, Smith, who resigned in December last year saud he was "forced to walk," af-ter ross with the dwel executive, Robin Strampe, regarding a bill for players' formeac

SPORTING DIGEST Darren Anderton will continue his comeback from injury when Tottenhern take on West Ham in a benefit match for Johnny Wallis, the former White Hart Lane kitman, at Enfield tomorrow, kick-

off at 3pm.

The Dutch midfielder Aron Winter has said that he will be moving from Lazio to Internazionale nest season. Romania's national coach, Anghel iordanescu, has extended his contract for another two years only a month after he resigned saying his allegations of match rigging at club level had been ignored.

57 6-4 6-1. Doubles, first round (select-ed): I Woothings and Woodfords by Photosi and Rusedet (default), Women's singles, sec-ond round: K Po (US) bt M Wordel Wirmeyer (US) 8-2 6-2; A Frazier (US) bt Y Yoshida Libpen) 6-1 6-1; N Kimruta (Japan) bt N Myseg (Japan) 2-8 8-4 8-2; C Moraun (US) bt N Sassemat-su (Japan) 5-7 6-3 7-6. Quarter-finale: K Date (Japan) bt K Kechwendt (Ger) 6-2 8-2; A Sugyama (Japan) bt K Studerskova (Slovak) 5-0 Ued). MEN'S SIX NATIONS PRE OLYMPIC TOUR-MARENT (Attanta): Argentina USA 0; Pok-etten 2 India 2. Final plecings: 1 Palesten Spis; 2 India 8; 3 Great Britain 6; 4 Norea 4; 5 Argentina 2; 6 United States 1. WOMEN'S FIRST UEST (Atlanta): United States 1 Great Britain 1.

Ice hockey

NHL PLAY-OFFS Eastern Conference
first round: Washington 6 Pushungh 4
(Washington lead test-of-seem; game series
1-0), Florida 6 Boston 3 (Florida lead 1-0).
Western Conference first round: Detroit
4 Wirmupe 1 (Detroit lead 1-0); Chicago 4
Calgary 1 (Chicago lead 1-0).

Britain's Greg Rusedski bowed out of the Japen Open in Tokyo yesterday in the third round to the No 3 seed, Thornas Enquist. The Swede, winner of last week's

Football

Rugby League

Rugby Union

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Wigan v Bradford Buils 17.30).

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL: Engand v France (7.15), fat the Recreation Ground, Bath).

SPANISH OPEN (Barcalona) Man's singles, titled resents M Rice (Chiel) bt 1 Truyol (Sp) 6-1 1-6-8-1. Moya (Sp) bt A Costa (Sp) 6-2 1-0 nt; F Rog (Sp) bt R Furtan (t) 6-3 6-2; M Lasson (Sawe) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6-1 5-7 6-3; T Martn (US) bt C Rud (Nor) 6-0-6-4; A Berasategu (Sp) bt J Burillo (Sp) 6-1 6-4. Indian Open, reached the quarter-finals with a 7-6, 6-1 victory over the 13th seed Rusedski served 11 aces, but could

TODAY'S FIXTURES Speedway BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF RELAND Premier Di-Vision: Shebcume v Sago Rovers (7.45); Dur-deb v St Patrick's Athletic (7.45).

Other sports

PREMIER LEAGUE: Belle Vue v Ipswich (7.30); Oxford v London (7.45); Peter-borough v Long Eaton (7.30).

THE PARKS: Durham, with all their sec-ond-innings wickets standing, lead Oxford University by 127 runs. BOWLS: English Men's Indoor Champion-ships (Metion Mowbray, Lacostershire); Women's World Indoor Championships

Durhum wan toss DURHAM - First limings 334 for 0 dec overnight (S Hutton 172 no. M A Roseberry Overlaght (S. Haller 17.7), Walke 15-1-53-0; Thomson 18-3-47-0; Mask 18-1-93-0; Mether 14-1-65-0; Wagn 21-7-41-0; Khan 3-0-19-0; Sartiffe 4-0-10-0.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD *C M Gupte not out

A C Ridley c Brown b Birbeck

G A Khan b Bolling ... M A Wegh b Keleen ... H S Malik not out ... Total (for 4 dec, 79 overs). Felt: 1-145, 2-160, 3-212, 4-225, Did not bet: M E D Jamett, †J N Batty, R B Thomson, D P Mather, S P Du Presz.

Bowling Brown 15-5-26-1; Betts 14-0-45-0; Bitbeck 11-0-56-1; Boiling 26-8-50-1; Killean 13-1-42-1. DURHAM - Second Innings

To bat: *M A Roseberry, S Hutton, J J Longley, S D Birback, †C W Scott, N Kitteen, J Boiling, S J E Brown, M M Betts. Boaring (to date): Du Press 3-0-12-0; Thom-son 3-1-8-0. Umpires: N G Cowley and A G T Whitehead.

Lancashire v Yorkshire First day of four; 11.0 mday OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire have accred 59 for 3 in their first junings v Yorkshire.

Yorkshire won toss LANCASHIRE - First Innings S P Titchard c Byas b Wharf *M A Atherton c Stakey b Wharf3 N J Speak not out ... G D Lloyd c Gough b Hameton33 A Flimoff not out ... Extras (Ib6, nb2).......

lotal (for 3, 21.1 overs). Fall: 1-7, 2-14, 3-59. To bat: YN N Hegg, S Eworthy, I D Austin, G Yates, R J Green, G Keedy. Bowling (to data): Gough 5-1-8-0; Whan 6-3-7-2; Hamiton 6-0-10-1; Fisher 2-0-22-0; White 2-0-6-0; Mains 0.1-0-0-0,

YORKSHIRE: C J Scholeid, M P Vaughen P Byas, C White R A Kettleborough, fR J Biake, A C Norts, D Gough, G M Hamilton, 1D Faher, 4 G Wharf. Umpires: G | Burgess and R Palmer.

Botham beaten but Gooch joins panel

Cricket DEREK PRINGLE

At long last, the final two selectors have been selected. What has seemed like an eternity of fantastical speculation over two relatively unimportant positions ended yesterday at Lord's when Graham Gooch and David Gravency joined the selection committee. They beat off six other nominees including a vociferously supported Ian Botham. As the Test and County

Cricket Board's choice, chosen

from the 40 votes cast (two from has been the first of the season's each of the 18 counties, as well as the MCC and Minor Counties), they will now join the chairman, Ray Illingworth, the England captain, Michael Atherton, and the new coach,

David Lloyd, on the committee. With typical hubris however, the TCCB refused to release a results were announced yesterday. Botham, not without a tinge of irony, said he felt sure it was "a fair and democratic vote".

This almost perpetual masonic-like secrecy over what

red herrings does a very public game a disservice, and will allow those discontent over Botham's non-selection to keep the issue rumbling on-

If it does, it will be more misguided than remedial. Selecting can be a mundane job requiring both diligence and patience, breakdown of the votes when the combining long hours of watching with having one's ear bashed by overzealous county committee men, who believe their club stalwarts have been long overdue a run in the England side.

Botham is no stranger to helping good causes, but watching endless hours of cricket with only a minimal say at the end of it would test even his proclaimed new found love of watching the game. To say nothing of the conflicts it would bring to his media roles.

As a former colleague recently commented, he would be brilliant at getting some decent wine to the table for selection meetings and pre-Test dinners but bored rigid otherwise. The same cannot be said of

until recently an invisible one. Gooch (though he too likes fine wine), who apart from being re-cently involved with England is still playing county cricket. His love for the game has forced him to be more methodical and analytical in his approach to playing longer at the top. While this may have annoyed those who prefer David Gower's more cavalier approach, no one can doubt his honourable

> serve the selection panel well. The only caveat remains a logistical one over the time apportioned to his dual roles of

intentions and his diligence will

key Essex player and England selector, a conundrum Gooch believes will be solved by a bit of "give and take on all sides".
"In principle, I believe in a

broad spectrum of views, and having another current player on the panel helps that," Gooch said yesterday. Unlike the Australians though, he believes that the captain should be the "main man" in selection, with the other selectors there to feed information and sound ideas off him.

As one cycloptically committed to the England cause, Gooch is delighted the counties have allowed

chairman of selectors before and player, I just wanted to go out and win games of cricket. Now I'm free zone. simply interested in trying to build By not giving him the selec-tors he wants in Brian Bohis and a good system for English cricket and I'm flattered to be given the John Edrich, the counties are

chance. I tealise that I'll only have firing a warning shot across Illingworth's bows. His power a small say, but at least the bowlers will have an added incentive now has wanted since the World Cup when I come in to bat." The inclusion of Gooch from and the system has reverted the south and Graveney from back to the one when Gooch was captain of England. the west neatly balances the Whether or not it can now turn northern flavour of the panel. England into a competitive and Politically, however, the selecconsistent team remains to be tion of Graveney, who recently opposed Illingworth as

withdrawing his name, may not prove to be an entirely friction-

Clubs lose patience with Brittle

Rugby Union DAVID LLEWELLYN

England's top clubs have finally lost patience at the failure of the Rugby Football Union to agree a meeting with them to thrash out who runs the game at the top level.

man of the English Professional Rughy Union Clubs, delivered vesterday to Cliff Brittle, his opposite number on the RFU negotiating committee.

Topics such as television rights. sponsorship and the structure of the season must be discussed, and time is running out. The moratorium on professionalism ends on 6 May, after that it is every man (and club) for himself. But despite a stated preference by Brittle (and by extension, the RFU) to sort things out quickly there have been no meetings between the sides this week, nor are any planned for next.

We have tried to arrange a date this week," Kerr said, "but Brittle told us his diary is too full. He has no sense of urgency and we are very concerned. In fact we are very angry. The game is going to come out terribly damaged. This guy is stop-

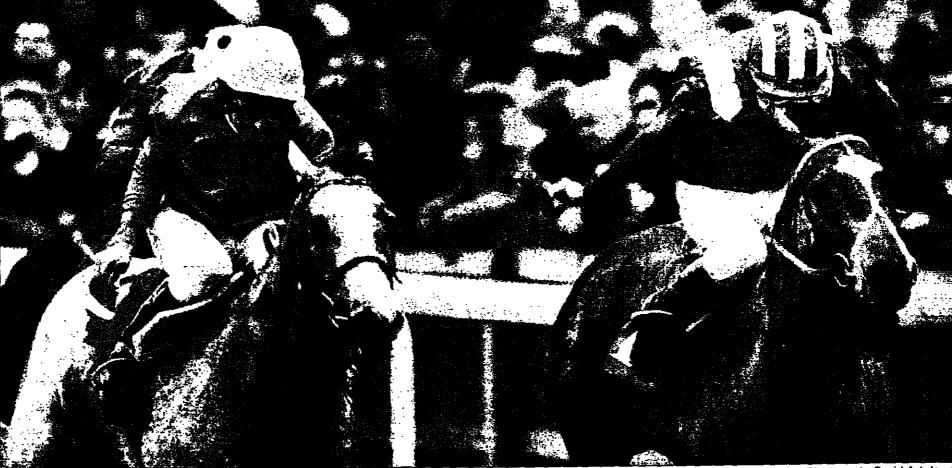
ping the whole process. If we could sit down with RFU president Bill Bishop and secretary Tony Hallett, this whole thing would be sorted out in five minutes. Brittle is trying to be president, chairman and chief executive and it's unhealthy and wrong for English rugby. There was supposed to have been one get-together this week mediated by leading England players. There have been distractions, not least the RFU's

own declaration of independence from the Five Nations committee regarding negotia-"Sort it out or get out" was the message Donald Kerr, the chair- is also the rumoured split in the ranks following the co-opting of Bishop on to the RFU's committee which is supposed to be negotiating with the clubs. There are suggestions that Brittle is so opposed to Bishop that he may not let the president attend all the meetings with the top clubs.

Meanwhile, following de-mands by Pilkington Cup finalists Bath and Leicester for more money for the 4 May showdown at Twickenham there are suggestions that the RFU is considering raising the price of the Cup final programme from £2.00 to £3.00. Programme sales are expected to be about 70 per cent of the sell-out 75,000 crowd.

But before the finalists, who were reported want around an extra £10,000 above the £40,000 put up by Pilkington, start rubbing their hands, the RFU marketing director, Richard Field, yesterday denied that the price hike would be as high.

François Pienaar, who captained South Africa to World Cup victory, will lead the Barbarians against Ireland in a fundraising "Peace International" at Lansdowne Road on 18 May.



Willie Carson on Alhaarth (right) is beaten by a neck by John Reid's mount Beauchamp King in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket

RICHARD EDMONDSON reports from Newmarket

nomenon known in the sport as bubbles bursting. Yesterday the Hindenburg fell to earth here.

Alhaarth, the short-priced favourite for both the 2,000 Guineas and Derby, was beaten for the first time in his career. Another supposed reincarnation of Pegasus had crash landed. Dick Hern's colt failed by only a neck in the Craven Stakes and is still the market leader for both

Classic favourite Alhaarth falters Reputations perish quickly in this Classics, but any thought that an week of the racing season, a phewerk part a box is being knocked up colt, as did his gleaming hide, in racing's pantheon can now be dispelled. He cannot be a won-

> There have been plenty of shocks this week when, traditionally, the flashy dans of the gallops try to confirm their credentials on the anvil of racecourse competition. Beforehand, Alhaarth cer-

splashes on his forehead and

der horse after this.

which had the rich shine of the managing director's desk. Twoyear-olds are meant to grow like bamboo over their third Alhaarth looked little different from the animal who recorded five straight successes last year.

He was familiarly eager on the racetrack too, tossing his tainly looked the part. Milky head extravagantly, as Rio Duvida tugged the small field

along. Two furlongs out, Willie and his team. In his flat cap, Carson initiated his bolt for anorak and mittens the Major away," John Reid, Beauchamp

King's jockey, reported later. Alhaarth engaged combat in never going to get back, and by the time he returned a cathedral silence had descended on Hern

home, but he was soon collared looked like someone in his shed by the grey shape of Beauchamp at the allotments. The words that I knew when Willie kicked a man who had just had his tomatoes visited by blight. "He ran a good race and I'm quite happy to be back here in a fortnight," Hern said. "That will have done him good and that was the whole object of running, to give him the benefit of a race." There were worrying signs

on that side tonight," the jock ey said.

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NOT PAYING

OVER THE **ON**

Photograph: David Ashdown

for those who have the big antepost prices about Alhaarth. however. The colt was not exactly puffing like an athlete with improvement to come ("he wouldn't have blown a match out," said Hern) and he was subjected to the hardest race of his life, absorbing several meaty King. "I was travelling so well were brave but the look was of smacks from Carson. "I wouldn't want to be lying down

> Carson was not entirely disspirited. "I've got a great chance of beating that grey horse," he said, "but whether that's good enough to win the Guineas is another matter."

"I'm careful with money.

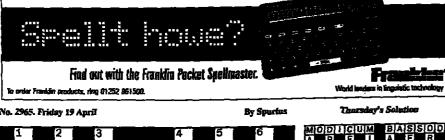
They gave me the best quote.

GALL

i rang AA insurance.

I didn't pay over the odds."

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD





acters may be in need of train-

ing (10)

10 After howling, try to catch (8)

11 Old man needs temporary accommodation, it's obvious (6)

12 Stick had broken before (6)

13 Inordinate greed with pie leading to extraction? (8) ing to extraction? (8)

15 Areas of natural beauty where 18 Businessman intended to recruit church member and hus-

20 Habit rife in the sixties? (6) 22 Dickensian character's painting kept in study (6) 24 Waiting in the wings, specula-tor's put in reduced bid (8)

25 Where we see candidates for the vertically challenged joust-ing tournaments? (5, 5) anguishing on dole such char- 26 A ruler with end broken off, but having similar properties

DOWN Basic instincts evident in SE France? Goodness! (10)

Grouse when flying around ex-ercise an inhibitory mechanism

Planned to keep a piano in out-5 To get car must be difficult for person in modest dwelling (8)
6 List not filled out? (4)
9 In which exorte dancers appear

14 Tales again circulating in university (4, 6) 16 Walk round a place like Oxford

- mostly, it's quiet (8)

17 If one's inveigled into alliance, one won't fight (8)

19 Records answer North Americans

can pupil's entered (6)
21 Capitalist getting a law over-turned – it's in the paper (3, 3)
23 Pine extract available in sacher

animated? (5, 8) Make the longest word you can from ACREMANIA Thursday's Scramble: CAFETERIA THE FRANKLIN SCRAMBLE

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Nerves frayed as Uniteds take a break

Maybe, given that the new den-im-style away shirt was the talk of Tyneside, it was destined to be a night for the status quo. The latest, identical wins for Manchester United and Newcastle not only left the championship equation unaltered, but revealed nerves in the rival camps to be as frayed as a battered pair of jeans.

In theory, a 10-day break for international week allows both contenders to summon their strength for the eight-day peri-od that should decide the title. In practice, the hiatus may merely tighten the mental mangle by leaving the two Uniteds to muli over the possibilities, among which a play-off ranks ever more highly.

Kevin Keegan admitted that Newcastle were feeling the heat after the 1-0 defeat of Southampton, while Alex Ferguson's remarks after Manchester United's close shave against 10man Leeds suggested his team were not the only ones showing

As Keegan confirmed, psy-chology is a major factor at this stage. "That's why the six inches between the ears are important. We guts it out again,

Phil Shaw looks forward to an intriguing and tense run-in for the Premiership title

though I have to say that David Batty again showed that he doesn't seem to be feeling any pressure. He's done it all before, and I honestly don't think we'd have held in there without him." On a night when even Peter

Beardsley could not master the tension. Batty's confident, economical passing proved he has more to offer than a pit-bull Ferguson, likewise, was strugding to explain a spirited show

by Batty's old colleagues, ask-ing why Leeds only played to their potential against his side. They should be in the top six. he argued, and were "cheating the manager" by not being so. This cocktail of complaint, compliment and paranoia was probably designed to embarrass

Leeds into similar commitment at home to Newcastle a week on Monday. Manchester United could be six points clear again by then, provided they beat Nottingham Forest the day before. Fresh intrigue, such as the likely return of Tony Yeboah Forest's Frank Clark and Steve Stone, will emerge in the in-terim. But, to judge by Wednesday, the tussle will go to the last kick of the regular season and possibly beyond.

It was tit-for-tat stuff, right down to Keegan's relief that Manchester United did not pile on the goals after Leeds had to hand Lucas Radebe the goalkeeper's jersey, and Ferguson's satisfaction on hearing Beardsley had missed a penalty.

Nothing's changed, really, the Newcastle manager said as the bookies retained Manchester United as 4-9 favourites and Newcastle at 13-8. "The onus is still on us. We've got the extra game but only one of our three is at home. If you balanced it up on a set of scales, it would stand

And if it all stands even at the final whistle on 5 May, the play-off will be a reality. Keegan laughed off the prospect, saying: "I won't be there, I'll be on my holidays. I'm off to Marbella with Alex. We'll have a and the Geordie solidarity of game of golf to decide it."

England call-up Villa's Wright

Marseille's Tony Cascarino was

given permission to pull out be-

cause of pressing club commit-

Wales did not escape, either,

ments in France.

Alan Wright was yesterday called up by England as the list of withdrawals for next Wednesday's home game against Croa-

tia continued to grow. The Aston Villa left-back stepped up after an ankle injury ruled out Phil Neville. The Manchester United defender joined Newcastle's Les Ferdinand (broken toe) and Robert Lee (Achilles), plus Blackburn's Alan Shearer (groin) on the ca-

with a hamstring sidelining the Bolton striker Nathan Blake for The call for reinforcements the trip to Switzerland. by the England coach, Terry Venables, is likely to be followed The Aston Villa defender out of action for a year after today by Mick McCarthy, who

lost four more members of his suffering a broken and dislo-Republic of Ireland squad to cated left ankle. However, face the Czech Republic in Prague. Out went Leeds' Gary Kelly and Liverpool's Jason McAteer (both knee), and Vilmake a complete recovery. la's Steve Staunton (ankle).

laid for a single match play-off on a neutral ground should Newcastle and Manchester United finish level on points, goal difference and goals scored at the end of the season. It would take place after the FA Cup final on 11 May and before the European Championship fi-

Charles - injured in Wednesday's 1-1 home draw with West Ham United - is expected to Contingency plans have been

Gary Charles is expected to be nals, which begin on 8 June. Klinsmann ban, page 28

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